

THE
EXAMPLE OF FRANCE
A
WARNING TO BRITAIN.

THE writers who have published their sentiments on the events which have passed in France since the Revolution, have been so lavish of argument, so exuberant in story, that they seem to have relied for success with their readers, not so much on force of facts, as on ingenuity in weaving curious webs of reasoning. We have had, on the one hand, panegyrics on Gallic freedom, with enthusiastic calls to pursue the same system in order to arrive at the same happiness: on the other hand, every circumstance of the Revolution, from the original wish for liberty, has been condemned and satirized with more wit than truth. To plain men these writers seem equally removed from that

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examination, which, attending solely to facts, and their immediate and more remote consequences, is not apt to trust to the cunning of argument, but looks on every side for the more solid support of experiment.

I am inclined to think the application of theory to matters of government, a surprising ^mbecility in the human mind; for men to be ^{ady} to trust to reason in inquiries, where exper^{ent} is equally at hand for their guide, has beeⁿ pronounced, by various great authorities, to be in every other science, the grossest folly—why the observation should not equally extend to the science of legislation, will not easily appear.

My personal purf^t, for a long series of years, has confirmed me in the habit of experimental inquiry: I have observed on so many occasions the fallacy of reasoning, even when exerted with great force of talents, that I am apt, whenever facts are not clearly discerned, to question rather than to decide; to doubt much more readily than to pronounce, and to value the citation of one new experienced case in point, more than an hundred brilliant declamations. Having resided a good deal in France during the progress of the Revolution, to which I was, for some time, a warm friend; having passed through every province of the kingdom;

dom; examined all her principal manufactures; gained much instruction, relative to the state of her commerce, and attended minutely to the situation of her people, it was natural for me, on my return to England, to consult with attention the legislative acts of the new government; and to procure, by correspondence and conversation, with persons on whom I could depend, such intelligence as was necessary to enable me to satisfy my curiosity concerning the result of the most singular Revolution recorded in the annals of mankind. I should consider myself as a bad subject of Britain, if I did not use every endeavour to render the knowledge, thus acquired, of use to my countrymen; and it is solely with this view that I now throw together a few short essays, inserted originally in the Annals of Agriculture, somewhat improved in form, and with such additions as the events of the period afford.

But in attempting to give expressions adequate to the indignation every one must feel at the horrible events now passing in France, I am sensible that I may be reproached with changing my politics, my "principles," as it has been called.— My principles I certainly have not changed, because if there be one principle more predominant than another in my politics, it is the *principle of change*. I have been too long a farmer to be go-

verned by any thing but events; I have a constitutional abhorrence of theory, of all trust in abstract reasoning; and consequently I have a reliance merely on experience, in other words, on events, the only principle worthy of an experimenter.

The circumstance, of there being men who having been friends to the Revolution, before the 10th of August, yet continue friends to it, proves clearly one of two things; that they are either republicans, and therefore approved of the Revolution before the 10th of August merely as a step to the 21st of January, thinking, with Dr. Priestley, the Revolution of the 10th *necessary and happy*;—or, that they have changed their principles. The Revolution before the 10th of August, was as different from the Revolution after that day as light from darkness; as clearly distinct in principle and practice as liberty and slavery; for the same man to approve therefore of both, he must either be uncandid or changeable; uncandid in his approbation before that period—changeable in his approbation after it. How little reason therefore for reproaching me with sentiments contrary to those I published before the 10th of August! I am not changeable, but steady and consistent; the same principles which directed me to approve the Revolution in its commencement (the principles of real liberty), led me to detest it after the 10th of August.

August. The reproach of changeableness, or *something worse*, belongs entirely to those who did *not* then change their opinion, but approve the *republic*, as they had approved the *limited monarchy*. Upon the sure ground of experiment, it shall be my business, in the ensuing pages, to bring to the reader's notice some facts, proper to explain,

FIRST, the real state of France: and,

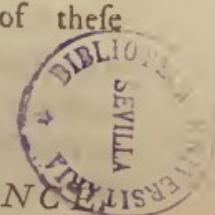
SECONDLY, the causes of her evils; and I shall then apply her example to the landed, monied, commercial, and labouring interests of these kingdoms.

PRESENT STATE of FRANCE

THE facts which will best explain this, concern—1. Government. 2. Personal Liberty. 3. Security of Property.

Government.

In all discussions relative to the new system of constitution or government in France, it is necessary, first, to inquire, whether they have any other system than that of anarchy. The circumstances, to which I shall allude, tend very strongly to prove that the Jacobin clubs, the general councils of the commons, and the nominal legislative convention,



appear so to divide the supreme power among them, while the mob, or *nation*, call it which you please, act so independently of all three, that, to compliment the result with the term *government*, would be truly ridiculous. To talk of the Rights of Man, or any other declarations or laws of the Constituent Assembly, is perfectly beside all present questions ; the heptarchy is not more out of date.—But let us examine facts, as reported by Jacobin authority.

The freedom of elections seems to be curiously attended to.—Resolution of the Jacobin club of September 13, sent to all the clubs of the kingdom :—“ Let us not lose a single moment to prevent, by firm measures, the danger of seeing these new legislators oppose, with impunity, the sovereign will of the nation. Let us be inspired with the spirit of the electoral body of Paris, whose decrees express, that a scrutiny shall be made of the National Convention, for the purpose of expelling from its bosom such suspected members as may, in their nomination, have escaped the sagacity of the primary assemblies.” (Polit. State, No. 6. p. 449.) What a beautiful lesson is this to the men who complain of our representation in England, and wish it reformed.—Here is a delicious reform, and at the hands of republicans ! The world, probably, never contained a proof of more determined confu-

sion; this is truly a *digest of anarchy*. For members to be elected to the Convention, under the controul of the commons of Paris, whether they shall take their seat or not, is curious, and ought to give us the clearest conviction, that the Jacobins want no Duke of Brunswick to be the avenger of the crimes of Paris. None can be such adepts in national misery, such founders of national ruin, as the people themselves, whose exertions are, with singular ingenuity, forming a system, in which regulation shall produce disorder, and decrees blood. That the people design to legislate personally for themselves, cannot be doubted; they mean the Convention to have no power, but an initiative *to propose* to the sovereign, who will accept or reject by the organ of clubs.

It is easy to guess at the obedience paid to a sovereign body whose election is thus respected: the Convention decreed, that all elections should be made by ballot: this was directly disobeyed by Paris. "Of twenty-five Sections," says Barbaroux, Oct. 30, "that have returned an account of the election of a mayor, eighteen have violated that law; and the section of the Pantheon has proposed, should their president be called to the bar, to attend him armed.

October 5th, a deputation from that city, thus speak at the bar, demanding the speedy trial of the King. "The men of the 10th of August will never suffer, that those they have invested with their confidence shall despise for an instant the sovereignty of the people; courage is the virtue of a free people; and we will not depart from the principle, that if it is just to obey laws, it is just also to resist despots, under whatever masque they may conceal themselves; we think it for our interest to make our elections *viva voce* (*a haute voix*)."¹ The minister of the interior is forced to write the same day to the Convention, "I pray you to take measures, to prevent being null and without effect all the demands and requisitions which I daily make, IN THE NAME OF THE LAW, to the commons of Paris."² The minister, in the name of the Convention, applied for law; but found the commons of Paris stronger than both. "I have seen," says Cambon, Sept. 25th, "these commons rob the national edifices of all their most precious effects, without the least register or note; and when we decreed that these effects should be carried to the national treasure, that decree remained without execution."³

"The council general of the commons of Paris," says Barrere, Nov. 10th, "has sought to depress, by every possible method, the national representation,

sentation. The legislative body said, that *that germ of new revolutions ought to disappear*, and the next day it was obliged to withdraw its decree. It said also, *that the gates of Paris ought to be opened, that every man might travel freely through the interior of the empire*; but the council general ordered them to be shut. The legislature decreed *that no more passports should be necessary*. The council general directly ordered that none should stir without a passport.*. "The constitutional dignity of the National Assembly," says Paine, "cannot debase itself." Paris is the best judge of the debasement of that assembly.

That the municipalities are in a state of real anarchy, appears clearly from different bodies assuming the same power; while the municipalities of Paris were demanding one sum of the Convention, *le commune proprement dite*, or ninety-six commissioners of sections were demanding another, which induced Kersaint to exclaim—*In what anarchy is our administration plunged. Ought there to be two bodies of representatives of the commons of Paris? the law prohibits it* †. This is curious; a legal vestry meets in the church, and is opposed by another in an alehouse kitchen, who term themselves the vestry, *properly called*; and one having a taste of public plunder, the other petition also for the same thing; such are the bodies that

* Moniteur, Oct. 28.

† Ibid.

seize and divide, under the epithets of confiscation, administration, and sale, the estates and property of emigrants.

The commissioners of the sections of Paris, at the bar of the Convention, bully it in these terms: “The time presses—the storm forms itself.”—Thus overturning the government that had been formed on the Rights of Man, which, instead of yielding peace and tranquility, produced storms only, the eternal products of such Revolutions; and the blood that had been so lavishly spilled for the *public repose*, afforded so little, that the minister Rolland, writing to the commons of Paris, says, *I bear of nothing but conspiracies, and projects of murder, and assassination**. The wicked preached yesterday, at the same moment, in different parts of Paris, *pillage, and assassination†*. And being ordered by the Convention to report the state of Paris, his expression is, *the administrative bodies, without powers; the commons despotic; the people deceived;—such is Paris‡!* But deceived and ignorant as they were, they thought their *lights* sufficient to instruct the nominal legislature; as Marat and his gang were daily declaring, that cutting off heads was the *genuine employment of a people*, and denouncing so many members of the Convention in the Jacobin clubs, it was debated in

the Convention, whether a guard ought not to be drawn from all the eighty-three departments. On this project, the commissioners of the forty-eight sections of Paris thus speak (Oct. 19) to the Convention: “ Proxies of the sovereign! You see before you the deputies of the sections of Paris. They come to make you understand eternal truths. No words—but things! It is proposed to place you on a level with tyrants—to surround you with a distinct guard. The sections of Paris weighing the principles on which the sovereignty of the people resides, declare to you that this project is odious and dangerous. We will attack in front such a principle. What audaciousness, to conjecture that the people will consent to such a decree! What! they propose to you constitutional decrees, before the existence of the constitution! Wait till the law exists; and the people have sanctioned it. Paris has made the Revolution. Paris has given liberty to the rest of France. *Paris knows how to maintain it **.”

Here Paris expressly declares to the Convention, that their decrees were waste paper, till the people sanction them: such is personal representation; an assembly is so elected, and the people no sooner possess such representatives, than, intoxicated with power, they declare their deputies things of straw,

* Monit. Oct. 21.

and their decrees null, till sanctioned by the people themselves ! What a lesson ! to the friends of reform ! In all the public places, says Louvet *, at the Tuilleries, in the Palais de la Revolution, and elsewhere, you hear them preach continually insurrection against the National Convention. The deputies of the department of Loire, tell the Convention at the bar, Your scandalous debates are known in every corner of France. The afflicted people sent you to make laws, and you know not how to make a regulation ; they sent you to render France respected, and you know not how to respect it yourselves ; they sent you to establish liberty, and you have not known how to maintain your own. You tremble before these tribunes †. "The nation is tired of beholding perfidious representatives," say the forty eight sections of Paris at the bar ‡.

The National Convention, says Marat himself, offers the most afflicting and scandalous spectacle. Could an American savage be brought into it, he would believe the French legislators an assembly of madmen and furies. Unworthy men ! You are without knowledge, virtue, patriotism, or shame ; and are led by a band of vile wicked rascals, devoted to ambition, and trembling lest their crimes should be revealed ||.

* Monit. Oct. 29. † Jan. 10, 1793. ‡ April 11.

|| Journal de Marat, Jan. 16.

Paine is of an opinion directly contrary, “ they sprang not from the filth of rotten boroughs—they debate in the language of gentlemen—their dignity is serene—they preserve the right angled character of man.” We well know what their language is; and if a right angled character produces right angled actions, we know what those are also. For the serenity of their dignity !!!—It is a fit subject for mirth, but not for argument. Such is the constitution established by men, whom Mr. Christie calls “ Patriots, whom Athens would have adored, and of whom Rome was not worthy.”

It is high time for us to know, says Cambon, that the Convention is absolutely despised.* Anarchy, said Baurere †, is at its zenith: and Barbaroux ‡, *Anarchy reigns around us, and we have done nothing to repress it. Those who provoke to murder are yet triumphant. Anarchy is the cause of all our evils!* says the PRESIDENT OF THE CONVENTION to the deputation for the department of Indre and Loire ||. The minister of the interior to the committee of general safety; every day, for a month past, they have talked of renewing the proscriptions; I have, for many days, received and laid before you assurances of projects of massacre and murder, publickly preached §.

* Monit. Dec. 29, 1792.

† October 30.

‡ Ibid.

|| December 4.

§ January 16.

These are the accounts and the words of the members of the Convention openly delivered; but we have a reformer in England, who characterizes the French government with the epithets of,— “the erect mien and heavenly dignity of aspect,— the fair and enchanting form,—the vision so delightful.”—It is whimsical enough, that while the French find their government a mere anarchy of murderers and banditti, our English reformers should delineate it as the peculiar dispensation of Providence showering blessings on mankind. That while the administrators of the department of Calvados, tell the Convention, that *Paris is the focus of insurrection, vengeance, and proscription: that innocent blood has flowed, that villains who are the detestation of the nation, and will be the opprobrium of posterity, still calculate, in criminal silence, the life and death of citizens**, an Englishman can be found to declare such a government so beneficent, that he can refer it only to the first great cause of all!†

“ It is not among the least of the evils of the present existing governments in all parts of Europe, that man, considered as man, is thrown back to a vast distance from his Maker, and the artificial chain filled up by a succession of barriers, or

* Monit. October 20.

† Major Cartwright to the Duke of Newcastle.

sort of turnpike-gates, through which he has to pass. I will quote Mr. Burke's catalogue of barriers, that he has set up between man and his Maker; *fear to God,—awe to kings,—affection to parliaments,—duty to magistrates,—reverence to priests,—respect to nobility.*" One needs not put the name of Paine to this; he has a singular felicity in producing sentiments on which events form the right comment. Here, for instance, he ridicules Mr. Burke, for representing these virtues as a necessary tribute rendered by man to his Creator; but the master's pupils have been too adroit and too exact in reducing the theory of this doctrine to practice; for their actions have shewn, that *here* we are to seek the principle that was the guide of France! These turnpike-gates of fear, awe, affection, duty, reverence, and respect, which he stigmatizes as the attendants of the old governments, most certainly are not to be found in the new system of France. Her people have proved too clearly, to admit a doubt, that to their magistrates they pay no duty, and to their priests no reverence. Hissings, threats, and bullying, express their affection for parliaments. They murdered their king, instead of having him in awe; and blasphemed their God instead of fearing him. Those turnpike-gates are levelled without the reading of one riot-act; Rights of Man proclaimed the work. Frenchmen will pay toll no longer—they have

have not wherewithal—the coin of affection, duty, and reverence, is current no longer—they have paper in their purses, and in their hearts you will find terror, hatred, disobedience, and guilt. You might as well ask at your barrier for a louis d'or, as for justice, mercy, or truth.

From such a polluted fountain, it is easy to suppose what streams must flow; and that all parts of France have been scenes either of insurrection, of plunder, or of blood; the instances of Marseilles, Lyons, Avignon, Arles, Rouen, Caen, Bourdeaux, Nancy, Lisle, and a long list of other cities, are notorious: it may not be so generally known, that at Charleville the colonel commandant was murdered *. That at Cressey all was riot and violence †. That at Cambray the lieutenant colonel Besombre was murdered by the Gens d'armes, and captain Logros' head was on a bayonette ‡. That the rebellion of Poitou was of 10,000 ||, and that of Chartres double. More singular than these is the case of D'Hoté, who being condemned to the stocks only for four hours, by the *jury de jugement*, for crimes that merited an hundred deaths, being exposed on the Place de Greve, demanded of the populace, *liberty or death*; the mob, in spite of the Gens d'armes, mounted the scaffold, cut

* Monit. Sept. 4. † Oct. 17. ‡ Oct. 10. || Oct. 15.

the cords of the criminal, and carried him off in triumph. *When* says the editor of the *Moniteur*, reporting it, *will the people feel the necessity of respecting the laws?**

Marat will not be suspected of a want of that staunch republicanism and Jacobin ardour, which is inclined to admit no more evils in the new government, than are really to be found in it. What is his account? *Consider the actual state of France; the profound misery in which the people languish; the enormous dilapidations of the public fortune; the rapid exhaustion of its last resources; consider the monopolies, thefts, massacres, rapine, and disorder of every species, which desolate the kingdom. Never was the misery of the people so ruinous; never was anarchy carried to such excess; never was tyranny so devouring; never was there such a contempt of law!!!* †

“ No question has arisen within the records of history that pressed with the importance of the present. It is whether universal civilization shall take place? Whether robbery shall be banished from courts and wretchedness from countries?” *Paine.* Vary the words a little, and you will approach the truth—It is whether universal rapine shall invade; whether robbery shall be sanctioned

* Oct. 29.

† *Journal de Marat*, Mars 1.

by conventions; and nations become the prey of representative banditti?

What multiplied proofs of that fact, that without a King, and some *body* between the King and the people, where there is an indigent poor, all falls to confusion. The Jacobin Rabbeau once knew this:—"Dans un grand empire il faut absolument des hommes décorés, sans quoi l'état tombera dans une vaste popularité, dans une immense démocratie, qui doit finir par l'anarchie, ou par le despotisme selon que le prince ou le peuple feront l'un ou l'autre, le plus fort*."

The Nation, says Paine, *not Parliament, should reform abuses: the idea of vitiated bodies reforming themselves is a paradox.* Exactly in proportion then to a nation interfering and taking the remedy of abuses into its own hands should be the effect in wiping them out. Apply to France for a commentary on this text. Has it been so? As she advanced in reform, did abuses disappear? Never was doctrine so belied by events as the doctrine of this great politician.

The event of the French constitution, as it appears in the government of the Convention, is

* *Considerations sur les Intérêts du Tiers Etat.* Par Rabbeau St. Etienne. 1788. 2d edit. P. 641.

probably

probably the completest tyranny that ever was in the world. That Assembly have united in one body the legislative, executive, and judiciary powers; and they have done this in direct consequence of the principle, that all power originates from the people, which, by a very small extension, becomes the maxim that no power should exist independent of the people. If any person doubts the fact, let him consider the eternal appointment and dispatch of commissioners to the armies and the departments, with the powers these deputies are armed with, and the objects of their mission; and let him further consider the constitution of that infernal court of justice or of blood, called the revolutionary tribunal *. The majority of the assembly were sensible of the nature of that tribunal, but defended themselves by the pretence of all tyrants, ancient and modern, *state necessity*. Montesquieu's expression † is good: *Tout seroit perdu* when these three powers are united, whether in a sovereign, in a body of nobility, or of the people.

* De Lolm^{me} justly observes, that if an assembly has the power of appointing judicial commissioners, it is the same thing as exercising the judicial power itself. Book ii. chap. 9.

† I cannot name that great writer, without remarking two observations, strongly confirmed by the French revolution; one is, that if the legislative body be always assembled, the executive can do nothing but defend itself. The other, that the moment the executive magistrate can be accused or judged, *il n'y auroit plus de liberté*.

" The executive government," says Paine, " is either a political superfluity, or a chaos of unknown things." It should seem that the Convention have thought with him, and have therefore assumed the executive power themselves, distributing it among their own members, under the title of commissioners ; but as they never proceed an inch, but under the cloak of " fraud and mystery," they leave the executive council its name and salary, while they draw to themselves the power and the functions. The people are the dupes, who are for ever complaining of tyranny, the origin of which they never understand ; but they see the legislature split into " parties scrambling under leaders ;" they feel the evil, but have no idea of any other cure than that of their *sacred duty of insurrection*, which has been so often appealed to, that it is become a part of the constitution, as all sacred duties ought to be. Such, indignant reader ! is representative government, when real and unrestrained ! Thanks to the *original purity* of our constitution, the monster here has a rein in his jaws.

" Government, by precedent," says the same great politician, " is one of the vilest of systems; it is a government hobbling on stilts and crutches." The French seem to work exactly according to the model of his ideas. Precedent, heaven knows ! makes no
part

part of their system: it would puzzle heads more acute than his, to find in the annals of human depravity, a precedent for guilt like theirs. They dash through blood—they fly at the objects of their rapine: while, in a more humble course, governments, by precedent, hobble slowly, but surely, towards the great land-marks of individual happiness and national prosperity—If stilts and crutches have brought us to that goal, we need not envy the ærial flight or inflammable wings of balloon philosophers. “ Government is but beginning to be known.” *Paine.* Indeed! Why then darest thou to impose thy jejune theories, thy false conclusions, thy impudent assertions, for the maturity of wisdom; thy froth of novelty, for the dictates of experience?

Such is the result of that constitution, founded on personal representation, which has been boasted as the pride and glory of legislation. Such are the effects that form the comment on so many hundred books and pamphlets published in praise of an edifice erected on the Rights of Man!—And of which we may say, with truth and moderation, that it has brought more misery, poverty, devastation, imprisonment, bloodshed, and ruin on France, in four years, than the old government did in a century. Such is the system that has been contrasted by Paine to the *no* constitution of England. Every thing with us, according to

him, has a constitution except the nation ; and if we had a constitution we should be able to produce it. The French, on the contrary, formed one which they could produce, printed on vellum, and bound in morocco ; carried by every one in his pocket, as the charter of his Rights; but, unfortunately for theories of government, this great effort of legislation; this boast of French, and envy of English Jacobins; this master-piece of the metaphysical ART of Abbé Sieyés; this quintessence of what *ought to be*, in opposition to *what is**; this fine machine pronounced by so many pens immortal; formed on the idea of Paine, *antecedent to government, and distinct from it*; this capital production of Gallic genius, endured scarcely two years. The freedom it afforded was not sufficient for adepts in the Rights of Man: the existence of a King became offensive to the new lights by which they were illuminated: insurrection was pronounced a sacred duty;—revolt followed;—and the horrors that will for ever stain the annals of mankind,—the *deep damnation* that ensued,—are written in every heart from which Jacobinism has not eradicated all traces of feeling and humanity. Such has been the PRACTICE of the French Revolution; for its THEORY, go to *Rights of Man.*

* La physique ne peut être que la connaissance de *ce qui est*. L'art plus hardi demande *ce qui doit être* pour l'utilité des hommes.
Perhaps

Perhaps experience will justify us in asserting, that that government is best which is best calculated to stand still; because the thing wanted in government is not activity, but repose; and to do nothing is nineteen times in twenty better than readily to do any thing. The vetos of different orders, or houses, therefore must be good, as they are so many impediments to action. No government is so restlessly active as a pure democracy, voting in a single assembly; the mob being satisfied no longer than a torrent of events keeps them in breathless expectation. We see, in the case of France, that such bustle is the energy of mischief, the motion of despotism. Their late successes, so unlooked for and surprising, made them speak commonly, in the streets of Paris, of conquering Europe; should farther success attend their arms, they will infallibly attempt it. The leaders, who owe their importance to the present hurricane of events, would sink too low in a calm, for such men to allow the storm to subside.

The authority of future assemblies, says Paine, will be to legislate according to the principles prescribed in the constitution; and if experience should shew, that alterations are necessary, they will not be left to the discretionary power of the government. Before his book was well circulated, that future government pulled down the constitution. He goes on—*A*



government arising out of society, cannot have the right of altering itself; if it had, it would be arbitrary. Here he levels point blank the system he wrote five hundred pages to support. Then the French government IS arbitrary.

Yet these infamies of abstract and ideal perfection are not black enough to deter men from boldly, in the full face of government and of day, setting their names to such sentiments as these, in which the British constitution and its friends are thus characterised:—"The mad councils of rage and desperation."—"Maimed, mutilated, mangled, and wretched condition."—"Scanty fragments, loathsome offals, are all of freedom that the people of England taste."—"Mendicants subsisting on crumbs."—"Visions of slaughtered citizens and a pillaged nation."—"Happy Frenchmen! How long will Englishmen endure the shame of seeing their house of representatives a shocking contrast to models so pure!"—Not even plausible *concession* will now, in my humble opinion, put the people off their guard, and *compromise* will be received as insult. Their demand is their rights. They are taking their cause into their own hands. They want no patrons; and their friends will be their servants. Their operations are infallible, their strength will soon be invincible."—"Among the discoveries of these pregnant times, it has been found

found out, that men may live and thrive without lords; that the sun will shine and the dew will descend where there are none but equal citizens to partake of these blessings; and that even good laws can be made, and justice well administered, without either hereditary legislators or hereditary judges*! ”—The people of England, *subdued by wretched artifice and juggling policy*;—*their violated rights and expiring liberty*—says Mr. Sheridan †. *Victims of venal and perfidious associations*—says Mr. Grey ‡.

Would any person conceive it possible, that the passages here collected, expressive of the warmest detestation, were not applied to France, as being most peculiarly adapted to mark the state of that kingdom, weltering in its best blood, rather than to one in so singular a state of prosperity as England? When our destruction is threatened so openly—when so clear an explanation is given of the REAL meaning and intentions of the reforming societies—and when the operations and strength of the rabble are so soon to be INVINCIBLE, it surely behoves the government of this country to awaken to danger so imminent; to menaces so audacious; and to a licentiousness of publication,

• Major Cartwright's Letter to the Duke of Newcastle.

† Declaration of the friends of the liberty of the press, p. 12.

‡ Ibid. p. 15.

which,

which, whatever be the intention, must, if unrestrained, let loose the dæmons of discord, the hell hounds of the mob, to the utter destruction of all that flourishes at present in this kingdom.

But Paine thinks differently of our *no* constitution.—“ The country governs itself at its own expence, by means of magistrates, juries, sessions, and assize ;—what is called government, is only boundless extravagance.” This is one of the false and flippant remarks of that endless prevaricator, who has not fact to support him in more than one of a thousand assertions. What are magistrates without the controul of sessions, but tyrants ? What would sessions be without the King’s Bench ? What would the King’s Bench be without a superior ? You can finish in none of these steps without tyranny being the consequence. It is the gradation and controul of powers which forms the true balance. It is THE CROWN that keeps all these meaner stars in their respective orbits : there is no similar power in France, and *therefore* all is confusion and tyranny. The admirable utility of magistrates, sessions, assize, &c. are felt and admitted :—you would have this without a supreme magistrate,—that is, you would have attraction without matter, and solar heat without a sun.

“ The

"The generality of governments," says Dr. Priestley, "have hitherto been little more than a combination of *the few* against *the many*; and to the mean passions and low cunning of these few, have the greatest interests of mankind been too long sacrificed. Whole nations have been deluged with blood; and every source of future prosperity has been drained, to gratify the caprices of some of the most despicable, or the most execrable of the human species. For what else have been the generality of kings, their ministers of state, or their mistresses, to whose wills whole kingdoms have been subject? What can we say of those who have hitherto taken the lead in conducting the affairs of nations, but that they have commonly been either *weak* or *wicked*, and sometimes both? Hence the common reproach of all histories, that they exhibit little more than a view of the vices and miseries of mankind. From this time, therefore, we may expect that it will wear a different and more pleasing aspect *."

The events which have passed since this passage was written, must make one smile in reading it. It now appears, that the combination of *the many* against *the few*, can also deluge a nation in blood, with a cruelty more accursed, because unnecessary to the many: that sources of prosperity can be

* Letters to the Right Hon. Edmund Burke, p. 144.

drained without ministers and without mistresses; that weakness and wickedness can take the lead without kings; and that history will still continue to exhibit the vices and miseries of mankind.

Personal Security.

THE state of France, respecting the personal liberty of her citizens, is dispatched in few words: THERE IS NO SUCH THING: the fact is so notorious, that an appeal to instances might by many be deemed unnecessary; there are, however, a few circumstances that merit noting, not so much to prove the violation of this first and most sacred duty of government, as to shew that such violations have been committed on principle; and perpetrated or permitted even by the legislature itself.

The declaration of the Rights of Man and of Citizens says, *no man can be accused, arrested, or detained, except in cases determined by the law, and ACCORDING TO THE FORMS WHICH THE LAW HAS PRESCRIBED.* Such is the letter: what is the practice? On complaints from Niort, against some counter-revolutionists, seized by a mob thirsting for their blood, but who wished to have the flimsy cloak of a semblance of justice, the NATIONAL ASSEMBLY decreed, “that all the criminal tribunals of the kingdom should try,

try, without appeal, all crimes committed against the Revolution*." And, in order to indulge the same thirst at Paris, which was not, with all its murders, satiated, they decreed the removal of the criminals from Orleans to Paris; that is, from the legally established judicature, where there was a chance of justice, to an illegal one, where there was no such chance; and they did this in consequence of such addresses as these from the deputation of the commons of Paris. *It is time that the criminals at Orleans be transferred to Paris, there to receive the punishment of their crimes. If you do not agree to this demand, we cannot answer for the vengeance of the people. You have heard us, and you know that insurrection is a sacred duty!* Invited to the honours of the meeting!!! The fate of these prisoners is known to every one.

The declaration says, that *no man can be punished but in virtue of a law established, and promulgated prior to the offence, and legally applied.* The application, "disobedience" in the colonies, "shall be regarded as high treason, and those who shall render themselves guilty shall be sent to France to be tried, according to the rigour of the law." The liberty of the press was provided for in the declaration. Such the theory. The practice was silencing all that were not Jacobin papers, and be-

* Monit. 31st.

heading the authors. No wonder that, under such a species of government, prisons should be emptied by massacre, and filled again by arbitrary arrests. Sept. 16th, the minister writes thus to the Assembly: "The natural, civil, and political liberty of the nation is in question; since the 5th, above five hundred persons have been arrested, so that the prisons are as full as ever*; no satisfactory account is given of the authority; they have been imprisoned by orders given by the municipality, by sections, by the people, and even by individuals: *emprisonnées par ordre, soit de la municipalité, soit des sections, soit du peuple,* SOIT MEME D'INDIVIDUS; and the reasons of very few of these orders are given."

The legislature thus informed of the abuse, may be presumed to be on the wing to remedy it. The progress of the business is curious:—Oct. 8. Decree—"The National Convention decrees, that citizens detained in houses, which are neither prisons nor houses of arrest, shall be removed, within fifteen days, into legal prisons; after which time, every citizen, against whom there appears neither warrant of arrest, nor decree of accusation, shall be

* Contrast this with the SEVEN prisoners (four of them not *flâne* ones), the whole number found in the Bastile when forced by the mob!!!

set at liberty *." If any doubts could remain of the real tyranny under which France groans, such a decree would be sufficient to remove them:—the fact of citizens being thus illegally confined, without warrant, and not in legal prisons, is here admitted; and men so treated may be kept fifteen days longer before they are set free! Sept. 16, the Convention receive the notice officially, and Oct. 8, they decree a power of arbitrary imprisonment fifteen days longer!!—Nor does it end here; for, Nov. 11, complaint is heard in the Assembly, that *no report is made concerning the prisoners* †; and it merits great attention, that during this long period of the imprisonment of so many unhappy people, Paris was incessantly convulsed; and every day brought reason to expect, that imprisonment and slaughter would prove synonymous terms. To imprison whom they pleased on suspicion, as a method of taking off those they dared not, or could not publickly accuse, was a convenient mode of tyranny, not unworthy of the wretch, a member of their Pandemonium, who, speaking to the question of trying the unhappy King, assigned him to torments in the hearing of those tribunes, who might soon be the executioners of his bloody wishes. *Morisson*, "the first and most natural of all my affections would be, to see that sanguinary monster (Louis XVI.) expiate his

* Monit. Oct. 9.

† Nov. 13.

guilt

guilt by the most cruel torments * : "—and another (Gonchon, Dec. 12) says, *Kings will pass away! but the declaration of rights and pikes will never pass away.* Here let the tyrant hear his condemnation. Deputation of the Section of *Gardes François*, "The Section of Luxemburg has sworn to poniard Louis XVI. if you do not condemn him to perish on a scaffold; we were invited to accede to it †."

As if the declaration of rights were not laid in the dust, when such language could be spoken of a prisoner unheard; and amidst *unanimous and reiterated applauses!* The applauses of those whose pikes were ready.

In the full face of such authentic facts, given on the authority of their own ministers and friends, we read, in the *Political State of Europe*, printed by Jordan, and written by Paine and Co. No. 6. p. 435, that in Paris a respect is paid to the sacred preservation of property, and that the laws are *nowhere so universally respected and obeyed!!!* What will not Jacobin impudence reach!

The infamous Marat, deeper in the blood of the 2d of September than any other person, except perhaps Petion, seeks to prove it the act, not of a few, but of the people. *As to the massacres of the 2d and 3d of September, it is an atrocity to re-*

* Monit. Nov. 14.

† Dec. 29.

present

present them as the work of a gang of brigands. If so, the Assembly, the Minister of the Interior, and the Mayor of Paris, were the culpables; and nothing in the world can wash them clean from the crime of not having prevented assassinations that lasted three days; but they will doubtless say, it was impossible, being equally the act of the national guards, the federates, and the people. Petion rested tranquil at table, with Brissot and his friends, and disdained to quit the party even for receiving the commissioners sent by the Assembly, to charge him to stop those excesses*.

Such has been the attention to personal liberty, under the reign of philosophers, established on the ruins of the mildest and most benevolent government in Europe, our own only excepted; a government cruelly libelled in the character given by one of our reforming orators, who thus describes it; "a species of government that trampled on the property, the liberty, and the lives of its subjects; that dealt in extortions, dungeons, and tortures: and that prepared, beforehand, a day of sanguinary vengeance †." Expressions so singularly applicable to the fabric erected by the Revolution, that one can with difficulty believe it possible that they were meant for any other.

* *Journal de Marat*, No. 105.

† Mr. Sheridan's Speech,

Security of Property.

IF I had not heard Jacobin conversation in England, there would have been little occasion for this paragraph; to a reader that reflects, it must at once be apparent that where there is no personal freedom, there can be no secure property: It would be an insult to common sense to suppose, that a tyrannical mob would respect the property of those whose throats they cut: arbitrary imprisonment and massacre must be inevitably followed by direct attacks on property. Contrary however to these plain deductions of common sense, it has been repeatedly asserted, that the government of France has done nothing in violation of the rights of property, except with relation to emigrants, who were considered as guilty for the act of flying: but is it not palpable, that filling prisons on suspicion, by arbitrary commitments, and emptying them by massacre—that the perpetual din of pillage and assassination—are calculated to fill men with alarm and terror—and to drive them to fly not through guilt, but horror? By your murders you drive them away; and then pronouncing them emigrants, confiscate their estates! And this is called the security of property. The cry of aristocrate or traitor is followed by immediate imprisonment or death, and has been found an easy way of paying

paying debts. Upon my inquiring of a correspondent what was become of a gentleman I had known at Paris, the answer was, that he was met in the street by a person considerably in his debt, who no sooner saw than he attacked him as a traitor, and ordered him to gaol. No known massacre was committed in that prison, but my acquaintance was heard of no more. It is easy to conjecture what became of the debt. Should the dæmons of discord effect a revolution in this kingdom, and bring Mr. Legislator Paine (tired of being called the punchinello of the Convention *), once more to Thetford, Sandwich, or Lewes, he would not find it difficult thus to satisfy all his creditors, however numerous—he would come well prepared with a French recipe for wiping off all their *scores*. In a country where such things are possible, every tie that binds property is broken. To imagine its security, is a folly too gross to be endured; and to assert it, is a falsehood that should excite no emotion but contempt.

In a parish in the Clermontois (*Croté-le-Roy*), the steward of a gentleman residing at a distance, came to receive the rent of three considerable farmers. He was told that the Convention had decreed equality, and that paying rent was the

* The name given him in the *Journal de Marat*, March 5, 1793.

most unequal thing in the world ; for it was a man who did much to receive a little, paying to one, who, receiving much, did nothing at all. The steward replied, that their joke might possibly be good, but that he came not for wit, but money ; and money he must have ; he was ordered instantly to depart, or to stay and be hanged. The proprietor demanded justice, but in vain ; the municipality was applied to ; and the only result was, that body (the vestry) ordering the farmers to yield up the lands ; they were taken possession of by themselves, in deposit redeemable for the nation ; and actually divided in portions among the labouring poor, that is among themselves. What the event may be is nothing to the purpose : what becomes in the mean time of the Right of Property ! The probable event however is, that the proprietor will be driven to emigration, for the mere convenience of retaining their plunder.

It can hardly be doubted but that robbery, even of land itself, must spread throughout the kingdom, when the Committee of General Security could thus report to the Convention :—*The national resources may be augmented by imposing contributions upon persons of fortune, personnes aisées, and the obstinate, who wait, with tranquility at home, the event of the Revolution**: Contributions imposed

on persons for two reasons ; first, for the crime of being men of fortune ; and, secondly, for remaining in tranquility ! With such a legislation can property be respected ?

With such a principle, recognised in the Convention, we need not ask how taxes are levied.— The poor and small proprietors of a few acres, who every where form the majority of each municipality, escape all taxation, but are vigilant in forcing those of more considerable property to pay to the last farthing ; and as all taxes are assessed and levied by the parochial vote, at assemblies, to which *all* resort, the men without property order every thing at will, and have various ways, much more effective, for the division of property, than a direct agrarian law would be,

Let the farmers of this kingdom represent to themselves a picture of what their situation would be, if their labourers, their servants, and the paupers whom they support by poor's rates, were all armed, and, in some measure, regimented, and in possession of the vestry, voting not only the money to be raised by rates, but the division of it among themselves ; decreeing what the price of all the farmer's products should be ; what wages should be paid to servants, and what pay to labourers. Under such a system of government, I beg to ask,

what security would remain for a single shilling in the pockets of those who are at present in a state of ease and affluence? And whether such a tyranny would not be worse than that of the most determined despotism at present in Europe?

While the farmer is thus exposed to parochial oppression, at the mercy of those who were so lately his inferiors, and who are even fed and supported by him, he is not exempted from attacks of a very different nature; to authorise the seizure of horses and arms, was, in the National Assembly, a measure of violence and tyranny; but as it issued from the legislature *de facto*, it had the authority of admitted power; but the municipality of Paris have gone much further; September 13, the minister of the home department complains to the Assembly, that the commissioners of the municipality of Paris are sent into the country with such arbitrary orders, as are utterly inconsistent with his own responsibility; their orders are signed by four of the administrators of the public safety, for seizing suspected persons and precious effects—*Pour s'emparer des personnes suspectes & des effets précieux**. Seizing suspected persons and precious effects! A very pretty commission in a land of liberty; and given, not by the legislative body, but by a corporation! The corporation of a town

sends commissioners, in other words, despotic monarchs, into the country, to arrest and to plunder, and this under the eyes of the legislature. When the republican reader of Mr. Paine, on corporations in England, is well satiated with *rights*, it would do him good to take the actions of French municipalities as a comment on the text.

The abuses and plunder in the sale of the possessions of the emigrants, may be easily conceived from the complaint which Sillery makes in the Convention :—“ The furniture of the chateau of Nangus, belonging to the Baron de Bretueil, was worth at least 1,500,000 liv. and has produced scarcely any thing. Six tapestries of the Gobelins, which cost 30,000 liv. in money, were sold for 2800 liv. in assignats. A clock that cost 24,000 liv. in money, sold for 800 in paper *. Such is the virtuous administration of the *res-publica* among republicans !

Marat lets us into the secret of the wealth of members of the Convention, who were once as poor as himself.—*Barbaroux tenoit les cordons de la bourse comme il tenoit la clef du boudoir* (he alludes to his being the lover of Madame Rolland), *at least if we may judge by the facility with which he distributes assignats to the right and left.* People

* Monit. Dec. 31.

have been astonished at the enormous expences of many members, who, like myself, have had no other patrimony than debts. Although married, these gentlemen keep girls, give great suppers, and their wives are always at the theatres.—*Valaffé* is a royalist and spends enormously.—The father-in-law of Petion lives in a palace, dresses richly, drives his coach, keeps an excellent table, and bought the cellar of Egmont Pignatelli, which cost him 23,000 liv.—A footman of Montesquiou is colonel of the regiment of cavalry buffards braconniers, and at the same time contractor for furnishing them.—Gorsas, Dulaure, Poncelain, Rœderer, Caritat, Rabaud, all paid by Rolland, in the 100,000 liv. pour former l'esprit public *.

“Resources,” says Paine, “are lavished upon kings, upon courts, upon hirelings, impostors, and prostitutes.” Experience extends our views: and here we see that the resources of a nation, flowing through different channels, can expand in the same medium; and that the hirelings, impostors, and prostitutes—to whom add the robbers and assassins of a convention—can devour the wealth, and depress the industry of a nation, with a rapacity that puts kings and courts to the blush.

The watch-word, from one end of France to the other, is *equality*; they join liberty with it, as mountebanks annex a favourite epithet to the nostrum, whose only object is the money in the pockets of the credulous. But after all rank, title, nobility, and distinction have been abolished, what do they mean by equality? They talk of equality, not because they know what it means, but because others have talked of it. Marat remarks, that the people follow one another like sheep:—*C'est un terrible torrent que celui de l'exemple car tout peuple est naturellement moutonnier**. The word equality is absurd, if it attaches not to property, for there can be no equality while one man is rich and another poor. But the preceding facts speak what the new equality is, in terms too clear to be misunderstood. *I am not astonished to see*, says Buzot, *an arret come to us under the name of Momoro, whom I, as president in the department of Eure, heard preaching the division of estates; but I am truly so to find such a man presiding in one of the sessions of Paris*†.

We hear it asserted in England, that property is not attacked in France: there you hear no such assertions: on the return of the Commissioners, members of the Convention, from the riots at

* *Journal de Marat*, Mars 5, 1793.

† *Monit. Oct. 13.*

Chartres, where they were nearly destroyed, it was asserted on facts, in the Convention itself, *that all the principles of an agrarian law were in agitation mis en avance* *.

Before we quit this subject of the security of property at present in France, let us examine shortly the case of that most interesting portion of property, the crop in the hands of the farmer: we know well in England, from the conviction of long experience, that if this species of property is not sacred, all the classes of the society instantly suffer; it is a vital wound that affects the whole system.

The late crop of 1792, in that kingdom, is said to be plentiful; but natural plenty, under a government of anarchy, avails little; the mob prohibiting the free transport of corn, the immediate consequence was so high a price in many districts, that the people found it more convenient to *seize* the corn than to *pay* for it: this, of course, added every where to the mischief; for the farmers were not ready to carry their products into the jaws of plunder. These distractions—these blessings of a government that had the power of converting even good crops into the means of famine, drew from the minister of the home department, threats even of violence; he wrote to a variety of cities, from

all which papers it would be too tedious to give extracts. He thus expresses himself to Tours: "The municipalities ought to use all possible means of persuasion with the farmers, for engaging them to supply the markets: for I must tell you, that if the possessors of corn resist these *paternal* invitations, MEANS OF EXTREMITY must be used against them: *on sera bien constraint d'employer envers eux les moyens extremes **." It is worth the attention of English farmers, to reflect well on the nature of this case: their brethren in France, content with a moderate and fair price for their corn, carry it freely to market; the operations of the people raise this price; and then, to revenge the result of their own violence, they plunder. Such a conduct is sure to create, at least, apprehensions of famine; and to obviate it, the minister does not threaten the mob, from whom all the mischief arises, but the FARMERS; he threatens them with EXTREMITIES, as a punishment for having been plundered by the rabble—by the nation. If the farmer, thus robbed, has the misfortune to be a proprietor, and particularly a large proprietor, he has first the oppression of paying those taxes which an armed populace will not pay; and, that he may be able to do this, his corn is seized by the consumer, and he is threatened with extremities by the minister; as if any extremities

* Monit. Sept. 17.

could

could be greater than taking his crops by violence: if more, however, was not meant, the folly of the denunciation was equal to the knavery of it. Those intellects which can see any difference between such a government and the cudgel of a Turkish basha, are much more acute than mine.

The same minister writes to the Convention, Oct. 15.—“ I am informed that the overseers of the military subsistences do not cease to fly through the country, and to force, with arms in their hands, the farmers to furnish their commodities. Such practices destroy every measure of order, and infinitely impede the free circulation of corn. I cannot dissemble with the Convention, that this conduct of the military contractors tends to spread disorder every where; and that if they continue to take by force, or at their own price, provision from the farmers, it will be impossible to insure the supply of Paris.”

Now this, if possible, exceeds every thing that Jacobin administrations, acting on the ideas of Jacobin liberty, could devise, to shew their perfect contempt of the whole farming race. He states the glaring magnitude of the evil to the Convention; and what is his conclusion? Why, he tells them, that if such things are allowed, it will be *impossible to supply Paris!* There is the only evil;

as to the poor plundered farmers, he allows, indeed, that robbing them is *a disorder*; but when he sums up to impress the legislature with the necessity of paying attention to the evil, he recurs solely to the supply of Paris! If Paris is supplied, all is well—as to the farmers they may take care of themselves. Let those who tell us in England, that the Revolution of France was favourable in the beginning to agriculture (particularly in tithes), consider the value of a FREE MARKET; and then our farmers will not be long discovering, that no exemptions, no such favours, will prove a recompence, for being forced, the pike or broad-sword in hand, to sell at the price offered by those who brandish the weapon over their heads. No wonder that such measures should starve the towns, as well as ruin the country; and that the commissioners of subsistence should report, that *the penury of grain, in the great cities, is extreme**.

In all these, and a thousand other instances, we see the living and effective consequences of Paine's doctrines; he expatiated on the luxury of great estates, and recommended their seizure; French practice realized the doctrine, and doubtless there were French farmers, who rejoiced at the spectacle of all the great properties of the kingdom being levelled by the nation; they did not however fore-

see, that it would be their own turn next; that the principle of equality being once abroad, would infallibly level ALL property; and would give to the beggar, without a loaf, but with a pike on his shoulder, the means of levelling the enormous inequality between his own wallet, without a kernel, and the well-stored granary of a warm farmer. Let ours, therefore, never forget, that the same principle which attacks a property of 40,000l. a year, because it is too large relatively to other properties, attacks also a farm of 200l. a year, for the same reason; nay, of 50l. a year, because that also is large, when compared with the property of those who have little. And let us all be well persuaded, that the fearful events, at present passing in France, with a celerity of mischief that surpasses equally all that history has to offer, or fancy to conceive, afford a spectacle interesting to every man who possesses PROPERTY; and to none more than to farmers. The quarrel now raging in that once flourishing kingdom, is not between liberty and tyranny, or between protecting and oppressive systems of government; it is, on the contrary, collected to a single point,—it is alone a question of property; it is a trial at arms, whether those who have *nothing*, shall not seize and possess the property of those who have *something*. A dreadful question—a horrid struggle, which can never end but in the equal and universal ruin of all; in which, he who gains

by

by the loss of his neighbour, gains but to lose, in his turn, to some sturdier robber, till riot, confusion, and anarchy, render property but the signal of invasion, and poverty the best shield against the attacks and tyranny of the mob *.

Such being the state of government, liberty, and property in France, I shall unite these facts in one general conclusion, and venture the assertion, that the Revolution has absolutely ruined that kingdom. I may be told, perhaps, in reply, that she carries no more appearance of ruin at this moment, than many months or years past. Her arms have even been victorious on every side.

The inquiry into that degree of depression or violence, which properly constitutes national ruin,

* Pursue the declaration of rights through every article, and it will be found that there is not a single one registered as an impre- scriptible right of man, that has not been violated under circum- stances of the most odious and abominable cruelty.

An Englishman is proud of the idea of his house being his castle; see the practice of *Jacobin* government in this respect! "Decreed, that the municipalities are authorised to search the houses of all persons for arms, and to take an account of horses and carriages applicable to the war." And soon after their absolute seizure decreed. This was sounding the alarm bell, in order to give up the houses of all the gentlemen in the kingdom to the plunder of brigands; and this by the legislature itself—elected by personal representation.

If we are asked what apology the tyrants of Paris have to make for their actions, their answer is STATE EXPEDIENCY; which an English reformer calls the *offspring of hell*.

would

would lead into an extensive and unnecessary discussion. If nothing merits that description but foreign conquest, Morocco was in no state of ruin under a barbarian, who put 40,000 men to death with his own hands ; nor is Turkey ruined under the dominion of horse-tails and bow-strings. To every purpose of sober argument, the danger of life and property is effective ruin.

Life and property in France are in this situation, if raised a single point above the level of the populace ; a gigantic and devouring despotism has levelled in the dust all security to those whose properties raise them above the mob. In one word, LAW does not reign ; there is a power every where superior : a despotic authority may fill the ranks of their armies, as the slaves of Algiers are made to arm and to fight, but the kingdom is as much ruined with victory attending her standard, as if the German banners were flying at Paris, Marseilles, and Bourdeaux.

The old government of France, with all its faults, was certainly the best enjoyed by any considerable country in Europe, England alone excepted ; but there were many faults in it which every class of the people wished to remedy. This natural and laudable wish made democrates in every order, amongst the possessors of property, as well

well as among those who had none. At the commencement of the Revolution, France possessed a very flourishing commerce; the richest colonies in the world; the greatest currency of solid money in Europe; her agriculture was improving; and her people, though, from too great population, much too numerous for the highest degrees of national prosperity, yet were more at their ease than in many other countries of Europe; the government was regular and mild; and, what was of as much consequence as all the rest, her benignant sovereign, with a patriotism unequalled, was really willing to improve, by any reasonable means, the constitution of the kingdom. All these circumstances, if compared with England, would not make the proper impression. They are to be compared alone with what has since ensued; and her present state may thus, with truth, be correctly described. Her government an anarchy, that values neither life nor property. Her agriculture fast sinking; her farmers the slaves of all; and her people starving. Her manufactures annihilated. Her commerce destroyed; and her colonies absolutely ruined. Her gold and silver disappeared; and her currency paper so depreciated, by its enormous amount of 3000 millions, besides incredible forgeries, that it advances, with rapid strides, to the entire stagnation of every species of industry and circulation. Her national revenue di-

minished three-fourths. Her cities scenes of revolt, massacre, and famine; and her provinces plundered by gangs of banditti. Her future prospect of peace and settlement, depending on a constitution that is to be formed by a convention of rabble, and *sanctioned* by the *sans culottes* of the kennel. It is not a few insulated crimes on some undeserving men; it is a series of horrid proscription, spreading far and near; pervading every quarter of the kingdom; it is the annihilation of rank, of right, of property; it is the destruction of the possessors of more than half France; it is the legislation of wolves, that govern only in destruction: and all these massacres, and plunderings, and burnings, and horrors of every denomination, are so far from being necessary for the establishment of liberty, that they have most effectually destroyed it. In one word, France is at present absolutely without government; anarchy reigns; the poniard and the pike of the mob give the law to all that once formed the higher classes, and to all that at present mocks with the shew of legislation. The mob of Paris have been long in the actual possession of unrivalled power; they will never freely relinquish it: if the Convention presumes to be free, it will be massacred; and, after a circle of new horrors, will sink (should foreign aid fail) into the despotism of triumvirs or dictators: the change will be from a Bourbon to a butcher!

" All former Revolutions," says Paine, " till the American, had been worked within the atmosphere of a court, and never on the great floor of a nation * ;" unfortunately for this miserable copy, she worked on a floor broad enough; her basis was the blood and property of France. The picture has no resemblance in " the *insipid* state of hereditary government †." She found in " scenes of horror and perfection of iniquity †," what " man is up to †." It is easy to see what they have lost; as to their gains, they have assignats, cockades, and the music of *ça ira*; it may be truly said, that they have made a wise barter: they have given their gold for paper; their bread for a ribbon; and their blood for a song. Heaven preserve us from the phrenzy of such exchanges! and leave Revolutions for the " order of the day †," for " the morning of reason rising upon man †" in France.

II.

Such are the consequences of the French Revolution. Our next inquiry is, from what have these evils arisen? They may be attributed to three prominent features in the new system of their *soi-disant* philosophers.—1. Personal Representation.—2. The Rights of Man.—3. Equality.

* Rights of Man.

† Paine.

If there is any one circumstance to which all the horrors that have passed in France may be more properly attributed than to any other, it is the double representation given to the *tiers état* by Mr. Necker, directly contrary to every respectable authority *. The preponderancy of the people within the walls, united with the spirit of revolt without, was manifest in a moment; the court divided; and the King, conscientious and honest, were not arms to meet the pressure of the moment. The mob triumphed; and all the world knows what followed. If a tree is to be judged by its fruits, we may fairly assert, that personal representation, which gives to the lowest of the people a direct influence in the government, must lead, in a great empire and a great capital, to absolute anarchy, such as has ruined France.

In any representative government, if persons only are represented,—that is to say, if a man with-

* Paine says, that the parliament of Paris recommended it. He ought to have known better; they expressly recommended the contrary, and did not tend to the least apparent change of opinion till the violence of the Paris mob threatened to drag them in the kennel. But Paine never touches on facts but to misrepresent them, p. 110. 111. first part; he makes the assembly meet in the tennis ground *after* the seance royal, but it was *before* it, their own house being shut up to prepare it for that seance: I was at Versailles in that interval, while the house was shut up, and the deputies assembled in the church of St. Louis. His account of the fray at the palace is all false, from the beginning to the end.

out a shilling deputes equally with another, who has property, and if men in the former situation are ten times more numerous than those in the latter; and if the representatives, so chosen, sit for so short a time as to vote truely the will of their constituents, it follows, by direct consequence, that all the property of the society is at the mercy of those who possess nothing; and could theory have blundered so stupidly, as to suppose for a moment, that attack and plunder would not follow power in such hands; let it recur to France for *fact*, to prove what reason ought to have foreseen.

The abstract Rights of Man, the most preposterous of all ideas, which in *fact* have no *political* existence whatever, have effected all the mischief; since those rights, which cannot be exerted, or become efficient without the destruction of other rights, and the rights of other men, equally admitted, are palpably visionary—the children of playful brains—but impossible in practice. But the French had these dreams; they imagined that personal representation would recognize and secure such rights, and they established their government accordingly:—they ridiculed the constitution of England for depending on a balance of powers; in which a *corporation of aristocracy* has a negative on the Rights of Man; and wove a web of theory from the phantasy of their brains, to secure those

rights from all controul. Is this a case in point? Is this a great political experiment on personal representation? Let the works of Mr. Mackintosh, Mr. Christie, and many other able writers, who have printed warm panegyricks on the French constitution, answer this question. They have answered it decisively; for the faults found, if any, are, that the representation was not personal enough; the result has shewn it *so* personal, as to have annihilated property; this part of the question therefore is decided as soon as proposed.

There is a party in this kingdom who call loudly for a reform in the representation of the people, and who would have such reformation give a right of election indiscriminately to all mankind: I was myself in the number of those who wished a reform, but not of such a complexion, nor at a moment like this; I wished the middle classes of landed property had been better represented; and that a new member for every county, might be elected by men who possess not less than an hundred a year in land, and not more than a thousand; and an equal number of members deducted from the most objectionable boroughs. But I would live at Constantinople rather than at Bradfield, if the wild and preposterous propositions founded on the Rights of Man, were to become effective in this kingdom. In other words, I have property; and

and I do not choose to live where the first beggar I met, may, the sabre in one hand; and *Rights of Man* in the other, demand a share of that which a good government tells me is *my own*. But my idea of a reform is as speculative as the rest, and therefore merits not more attention: rotten boroughs are found, on experience, not dangerous; of what account then the objections of speculatists?

The fact is, that the French constitution was founded *absolutely* on personal representation. By the letter of the law, certain persons were excluded, but by collateral parts of the same system, the mob was armed; and the authors of the Revolution might not perhaps foresee the event, that elections made at the point of the bayonet, would be at the power of the bayonet. Examine not the letter of a visionary code, but **EXPERIMENT**, in the history of Paris, Marseilles, &c. from the first moment of the troubles.

That many who wish the reform, on popular principles, of that parliament, under the auspices of which we enjoy the security which makes us every hour (of anarchy in France) the object of the envy of other nations—that many who wish this reform, do it on meritorious motives, I have not a doubt:—they think, on theory, that personal representation may be consistent with the

security of property ; much as they are deceived in this idea, yet their error was once respectable*. They say to themselves, so far I would go and no farther† ; but they forgot, that by going so far they

* Of such men, consisted many of the Constituent Assembly in France : but the absolute folly of the idea is now a matter of experiment : that assembly made the trial. They formed a government on the *Rights of Man*, and the foundation they built upon was so slippery, that the whole edifice has tumbled about their ears in a single year. I hardly know any thing more nauseous than the conversation one now and then hears at present on those fine theories, delivered pretty much in the same accents as a twelvemonth ago, when the Constituent Assembly was as much praised as it is now condemned ; such men forget that it is theory no longer : it is now fact and history ; the experiment was made ; we have seen the result ; it failed totally and completely ; in the name of common sense, let us, as farmers, regard experience only ; and when these eternal theorists still recur to new visions of their heated brains, let us reply, *the thing is tried ; that method of drilling has been experimented and found good for nothing ; the crop did not answer* ; the principles of farming are the principles of government ; when you have experiment for your guide, will you resort to theory ? When experiment has damned half a dozen theories from the same quarter, will you still listen to new fancies, and go to work again, because the same men tell you they have new imaginations for your employment ? The leading conclusion, deducible from the French experiment, and written in characters, which he that runs may read, is this, **IF PERSONS ARE REPRESENTED, PROPERTY IS DESTROYED.** We know then what to think of the proposals for reform hitherto made in this kingdom.

† The first leaders in the Revolution said this, and they now feel the consequence. Necker, who gave the *double tiers*, banished with the loss of an hundred thousand pounds ; Siéyès, who said *le tiers est tout*, in disgrace ; and Barnave, who asked if the first blood

they have given the power from their hands, by which alone others are prevented from pushing matters a little further; and that these again are impelled by a third set, who drive at the Rights of Man, and pulling down all that exists at present, with the temple of Dagon, by the Sampson of the mob. However respectable, well-meaning, but wrong-headed, men may be for their motives, let it not be imagined for a moment, that there is any thing respectable in the levellers, your fellows of the Rights of Man, whose principles are not a jot better than those of highwaymen and house-breakers; for the object of both is *equalizing property*.

Mr. Wyvil, in his late pamphlet, talks of *temperate reformation*, and of *pointing the zeal of the people to a moderate correction of grievances* (p. 89).

blood spilled was so pure, in a dungeon; *le beau jour* of Bailly shines at present in a garret at London; La Fayette feels in the prison of Wezel, that insurrection is not *la plus saint des devoirs*; had Mirabeau been now alive, his head would be soon on a pike; and the minister Rolland, who, in his impudent letter to the King, said, that as *the voice of truth is not heard in courts, revolutions become necessary*, now, crouching under the uplifted pike, finds, in the dispensations of Jacobin justice, that the voice of truth is heard as little in conventions as in courts, and curses the folly that called for revolutions; Petion pelted and hissed, Marat carried in triumph*, and Manuel with his throat cut, continue the revolutions of the wheel of retribution. See these changes admirably touched in various passages of *La Derniere Tableau de Paris*, par M. Peltier.

* *Le Patriote Francais*, March 11, 1793.

As if it was possible, after rousing, by inflammatory publications, the mobbish spirit, that you could draw the line of *moderation*, beyond which the populace should not pass! You want to correct grievances by means of *the people*; who, with power to effect the purpose, must have power to do much more. If they have that power, will they use it? Go to Paris for the answer.

But that something more than temperate and moderate reform is really the object, we have an undoubted proof, in a work published the other day, by one of the heads of the reforming party *, who praises the French Revolution as not the *reformation* of a government, but its *utter destruction* (its *dissolution*, in the author's own words); and erecting in its room THAT which proved, so soon after the author dated his letter, and before he published it, a MONSTER; and is now the bloodiest and most detestable tyranny that has blotted the annals of modern Europe.

Power in the hands of *the people*, by means of personal representation, has ruined France. And the question in England is, whether the farmers and land proprietors shall preserve their property secure, by one and all considering the system with

* Major Cartwright.

the horror it merits; or shall, by doubt and hesitation, unite with the enemies of public peace, and hazard all that we possess at present.

I cannot well understand on what principles republicans and friends of liberty, can now give their approbation to this eventful Revolution. To be consistent with their own doctrines, they ought to hold the actors, on the theatre of French affairs, as the most fatal enemies to human liberty the world has ever seen: they have not only shewn mankind in a new and hideous aspect of ingratitude, past all example, but they have proved that liberty, in the abstract and in theory, is unfit for the mass of mankind, and even pernicious to their interests, and the interest of practical freedom. They have given a lesson of tyranny to all the governments of the world; they have given a panegyric on the perpetuity of political darkness, and on the propagation of political ignorance.

Personal representation in cities, must be apt to fall into the hands of a few of the most daring, restless, and profligate of the mob: of this, we have an instance, strangely remarkable, in the case of Paris; in that city there are about 150,000 voters, yet the number who have been brought to poll have varied from 9000 to 12,000; it is therefore, evident that the mass of the inhabitants, finding

ing they could not vote freely and in safety, would not vote at all. What a satire is this on the universal suffrage of the mob, who regulate the right of their neighbours voting, as they distribute justice—by the pike! “Materials fit for all the purposes of government,” says Paine, “may be found in every town.” He certainly means the pike, for that is the chief material in the new system.

“*It is well known,*” says the deputation of Finisterre, at the bar of the Convention, *that the sections of Paris are held by at most fifty individuals, to whom all cede with a facility perfectly incredible; astonished at such a general desertion, we have been careful to inquire the cause, and have been assured, that the only reason is, that none had the power of freely expressing their opinion without running the greatest danger. We are shocked to think of such a popular despotism**.” The federates at the bar, January 13th:—“*The public force is disorganized, and poniards intimidate the good citizens. Spare not the liberticide members, who vote in favour of Louis, we devote them to infamy.*”—Marseilles to the sections of Paris. If personal representation has, in the short period of four years, given the government of France into the hands of the mob—with two legislative bodies in succession most

completely devoid of property ; and if the consequence has been the destruction of property, and the delivery of its possessors, to be butchered or banished, we are surely justified in asserting that
THE EXPERIMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATION HAS BEEN MADE AND TOTALLY FAILED *.

* The Jacobins boast the government of America too soon to have experiment for their support, all countries fully settled must have a numerous and indigent poor ; America with immense deserts of fertile land at command, has no indigent poor to govern ; she is, therefore, exempt from the great difficulty of all government—but the time will come when she is no longer free from its pressure—when she has a numerous and indigent poor, poisoned or enlightened by a licentious press, it will then be found whether her system is so perfect as some pretend. “ The truth is,” says Dr. Wilson, “ that in our governments the supreme, absolute, and uncontrollable power remains in the people, as our constitutions are superior to our legislature ; so the people are superior to our constitutions. Indeed the superiority in this last instance is much greater ; for the people possess, over our constitutions, control in act as well as in right.” *Commentaries on the American Constitutions.* So able a writer, doubtless, is not mistaken in this ; but if the fact is true, anarchy and confusion, and the concomitant destruction of property, will inevitably be the fate of the country, when indigence is found in the mass of her people. If they are in truth paramount, they will pass laws for their own relief, and how is that to be effected without attacking properties that will not want the epithets of unnecessary, luxurious, or aristocratic, for a pretence ? To suppose that the mob will possess the sovereign authority *in act* as well as in right, and remain hungry, is a farce—and worthy only the theories with which we have been amused : and who has instructed us clearly in the importance of such a character, as General Washington keeping heterogeneous parts to one common centre ?

It would surely be great folly in the people of England to be amused with the childish visions and silly theories of I know not what ideal purity, which our government ought to possess to make it consistent with the projects of such mad-men and mountebanks as Paine, whose jargon upon representative government is the mere *ipse dixit* of a presumptuous individual. Excluding America, which ought always to be excluded for reasons I have mentioned, that of France remains the only experiment ever made on personal representation; and what has arisen in her revolution that can justify any praises of that system? A nation governed by a city; a legislature bribing the mob that bullies it; a government generating tyranny on legislation; a legislature begetting anarchy on government; a monster, “never young, never old *,”—“never in the cradle nor on crutches *,” but always “breeched in the manhood” of villainy—in the maturity of blood and rapine—of liberty dealing nothing but the “cant *,” nor of legislation, but the “sophistry *”—energetic in expanding misery; and liberal only in universality of ruin. Such is personal representation in the only instance in which it has been thoroughly tried; and such is the commentary of experience on the theory of Paine.

II.

The Rights of Man were the next pillar of the French system, and proved, in this eventful experiment, as visionary and mischievous as personal representation. The constitution was built on a declaration of these rights; and, as if every paragraph of the code had been formed only to be broken, practice has torn the whole into fritters, or trampled it under feet, with a contempt it never experienced in any other country: So that a man would go much readier to Constantinople than to Paris, for the exercise. Its commentator calls out for answers to his performance.—The French Revolution is an answer round and complete; there is not a page it does not reply to; there is not a position it does not damn: and the author has the daily mortification to see his marvellous efforts surpassed by his colleagues in the legislative banditti, who arrive at the same end by a shorter road; by engraving the Rights of Man, with poniards, dipt in the best blood of France.

When that prince of incendiaries, reviewing a train of his projects, asks, with an air of triumph, after each, *would not this be a good thing? This surely would be a good thing!* In like manner, take the

the French declaration of the Rights of Man, and there is hardly an article to be found, to which the same writer, and an hundred others, would not annex the same question, *is not this good?* *Can you deny this?* But concentrating the rays of right into one focus, and giving it in a declaration to the people as the imprescriptible right of man—the right of resistance against oppression became the power to oppress; the right to liberty crammed every prison on suspicion; the right to security fixed it at the point of the pike; the right to property was the signal of plunder; and the right to life became the power to cut throats. **ARE THESE GOOD THINGS?** If declarations of right, and governments founded on them, are really good, the result must be good also. But these are the good things in practice, that flow in a direct line from the good things of French theory.

The declaration of rights, says Paine, is of more value to the world than all the laws and statutes that have yet been promulgated. It stares corruption in the face. The venal tribe are all alarmed: from such opposition the Revolution receives an homage. The more it is struck, the more sparks it will emit; and THE FEAR IS IT WILL NOT BE STRUCK ENOUGH.—I copy this insanity, to bring to the reader's recollection the confidence with which this charlatan predicted, in opposition to the predictions of Mr. Burke;

Burke; whose ideas, he says, tumbled over and destroyed one another, for want of a polar truth. The polar truths, by which Paine steered across the boundless and unfathomable ocean of the French Revolution, make one smile; he now finds, sorely to the cost of his reputed penetration, that all the polarity which guided him was a *will-o'-the-wisp* meteor, that led his frail bark o'er rocks and quick-sands:—yet, ingulphed as he is, he says, *Mr. Burke takes a ground of sand.* Events have amply told us which of them was upon sand.

“ For a nation to love liberty, it is sufficient that she knows it; and to be free, it is sufficient that she wills it.” These, says Paine, are *soul animating sentiments*,—whereas Mr. Burke’s are dry, barren, and obscure; “ music in the ear, but nothing in the heart.” Before we were enlightened by events, this sentence was at best but pert theory; now we know it to be barren nonsense, containing as many falsehoods as words. We need not inquire whether France has *known* or *loved* liberty: but this we are well assured of—that *willing to be free*, she became enslaved. She sought the spirit of legislation in the terse sentences of modern maxim-mongers, but found that the silly antitheses of theory, could become tyrannies in practice. Not music in the ear, but daggers in the heart.

The madness of transferring such rights to Britain, belongs to the mechanics and labourers at Stockport *,—who, complaining that the useful science of politics is *neglected*, assemble to diffuse it; they resolve that all men are born equal in their rights, that the sovereignty of every nation ought to be invested in the people as their birth-right; who have the chief right to possess all that labour produces: and it is a very curious circumstance in these resolutions, that though they resolve that the liberty of the press ought to be inviolable, yet do they not give one atom of a resolution, that any man has a right to property, except the right of the mechanick, and the labourer to all that labour produces. These are resolutions perfectly congenial in their purview, to that degree of security to property which the Revolution produced in France. These labourers and mechanics may tell us, that *they detest riots*; but as they are so deep in the science of politics, they ought to know that their object and their resolutions tend pointedly and directly to the utter ruin and destruction of all government, peace, and security of either life or property. So also in the resolutions of a similar society at Derby †, they speak of *temperate and honest discussions*, and call on other societies to act with *unanimity and firmness*, until the people be too wise to be imposed upon; and their influence in the government

* Manchester Herald, Sept. 1.

† Ibid. August 18.

be commensurate with their dignity and importance. Can any person, warm from the recital of the horrors committed by the “ swinish multitude” in France—by the most enlightened of all the mobs of France—who have most studied the *science of politics*, and most frequented societies similar to these—can any man of property, acquainted with these abominations—read such resolution without indignation? *Temperate and honest discussions!* Why, the discussions of the Jacobins were doubtless once temperate; their honesty is another question. But let us not be deceived by smooth words at the outset. These men demand THAT which they cannot have without possessing the power of seizing our property and cutting our throats—they associate and combine, in order to attain their end. To suppress at once, by vigorous and decisive measures, such hot-beds of sedition and plunder, is the first duty of parliament; resolutions less offensive than these began the business in France; we have seen the event. *Temperate resolutions* were the theory; plunder, rapine, and murder the practice.

Give us our rights, is an expression which has been used with singular emphasis; the reply once proper, was an abstract reasoning on the nature of those rights: we have now something much surer to direct our judgments; and can answer, with strict reference to the facts that govern the ques-

tion, "you have your rights ; you are in possession of every right that is consistent with safety to the life and property of others ;—to give you more will endanger both,—to give you *much* more will infallibly destroy them, and eventually yourselves. You have, therefore, ALL your rights ; for you have all that are consistent with your happiness ; and those who associate to gain more, seek, by means which they know to be the high road to confusion, to seize what is NOT their right, at the expence of crimes similar to those that have destroyed the first kingdom of the world."

It is common to hear it asserted in France, that the ruin of the constitution, established on the Rights of Man, was owing only to the *perfidy* of the court, and not to those *Rights* ; which is a wretched sophistry ; these men do not perceive that that perfidy was a part of the constitution which included a court ; if courts can be perfidious, you are to suppose they will be so ; and if you have not so provided as to turn that perfidy to the benefit of the people, you confess at once that your constitution is visionary ; and if you must destroy it, THE EXPERIMENT FAILED. The second experiment, which is now in execution, fails equally ; for there is no provision whatever to secure to the representatives of the people the obedience of the people ; and we accordingly find, that all is anarchy,

anarchy, on their own Jacobin authority ; in the first experiment, there was no security against the perfidy of a court ; and in the second, none against the violence of the people ; to get rid of one evil they plunge into another, till, in the accumulation of opposite mischiefs, there is no better relief than Marat's grand specific of cutting off 150,000 heads. In this argument, I take the Jacobin ground of supposing the court perfidious ; which is an impudent lie, for a prisoner deprived of his rights, cannot be perfidious.

Perhaps it will be said, the present experiment is not finished ; and that, when a better executive power is established, things will go well ; but this is absolutely inadmissible ; for the whole force and colour of Jacobin argument in England is, that the legislative power is too weak, and the executive too strong ; and that the remedy of this evil is to let the Commons be really the representative of the people : now this *is* the case in France—and what is the evil ? Why, precisely, that the people will not obey the men chosen by themselves ;—they do not love the Convention enough to have confidence in it ; this is an incurable evil, which no modification of the executive can effect ; it strikes at the heart of personal representation—the mob elects, and the mob does not know how to chuse, and still less to obey.



As the Revolution matures, the hope lessens of a better system establishing itself. Confusion thickens; tyranny deepens its colours; the legislative assumes every day more and more the executive and judiciary powers, which is, of all circumstances, the most definitive of despotism: and even in the new project, presented by the constitutional committee, to which Paine's name among others is affixed, we see no effective attempts made to keep these powers absolutely distinct. They expressly direct the deliberations of the legislature to be public; yet offer not a word against meeting at Paris; two points that clearly shew they plan, project, and build, as architects of anarchy only. It was a late observation, I think, of Mr. Sheridan, that he *had read of despotism continuing for several hundred years, but he had never read but of temporary anarchies*—but in what have those temporary anarchies ended? Regularly (it may almost be said unexceptionably) in despotism. To anarchy, therefore, are to be assigned, in addition to the temporary horrors peculiar to itself, the durable ones that belong to despotic power.

III.

As to equality, the last support of the French system, it is too farsical and ridiculous to merit a serious observation,—it is worthy only of Monsieur *Egalité!* who has wasted three hundred thousand pounds a year, in order to stand on record the first fool in Europe, and to give the better part of his countrymen occasion to call that assumption great impudence; for he who was below all, could be *equal* to none. A genius, who sacrificed the first property of any subject in Europe, and the name of Bourbon, to become the subject of debate in an assembly of taylors, staymakers, barbers, and butchers, whether he should not be banished from that country which he has disgraced by his crimes * !

The equal right of all citizens to equal laws, was declared in the first constitution:—Equality of right to equal justice,—that in the law all are equal;—this equality was decreed by the Constituent Assembly, and clearly ascertained to be the law of the land; the new declaration of equality must therefore mean something more, or it meant nothing; if equality of rights were only in contemplation, why call the year 1792 the first year of equality? the fourth of liberty, and first of

* And since sent, pinioned like a galley slave, to Marseilles.

equality? A clearer proof cannot be desired, that the equality of 1792 was not the equality of 1789; let the writers and speakers, who assert the term in the two points to mean the same thing, reconcile the absurdity if they are able. To the apprehension of common understanding, property was glanced at;—that the French populace so understood it, there is abundant proof indeed, for propositions were immediately made for the equal division of wealth, and received in a manner that left no doubt of the measure being perfectly to their taste; and these propositions have been carried into execution much more than commonly admitted in England; the peasantry paying no taxes, while they force their richer neighbours to pay to the last shilling, is directly in point.

But the curse of these principles of equality is, that they never can allow tranquility to be the inheritance of a people; supposing it possible for a country, infested with such doctrines, to be well governed, such good government will infallibly generate wealth and inequality; and by consequence the necessity of new civil wars and confusion to restore the equality, which would for ever tend to variation; thus, under such fine-spun principles, peace could never inhabit; tranquility would be banished, even by the merits, supposing there were any, of the system; and new arrangements

ments of property must be periodically made, at the caprice and tyranny of those who, possessing nothing, would look to confusion as their support, and to anarchy as their birth-right.

Such have been the three leading principles of the French Revolution; personal representation, the rights of man, and equality; and the question for us to decide upon (a greater question never was before a nation) is this—shall we imitate the example of France, and, by tampering with that constitution to which we owe all our prosperity, hazard so immense a stake of happiness? There are men to be found who demand this, and even societies associated to enforce

Reform.

As the question has been discussed to satiety, the observations that follow shall be brief:—it is not uncommon to hear the expression of *restoring the constitution to its original purity*.—Two words on this purity will not be entirely misplaced. This is an expression we often meet with in the writings and speeches of men, who apparently are not very intimately acquainted with the state of representation in former periods. It tends strongly to give an idea to the ignorant and unwary, that the constitution has declined, and is at present in a worse state,

state, for the liberty of the people, than it was in former periods; and that the evils now complained of were not to be found in its practice or principles at times alluded to. There is no man, acquainted with the history of England, who does not know that this is a gross error; and that the circumstances now most complained of, such as inequality of representation and burgage tenures, took place ages before the Revolution, and were established before we had any regular constitution at all. Let us throw a rapid eye over a few instances, which will be sufficient to shew, that there never was, even in idea, such a principle as equal representation, and that as to the practice, no reformer has yet been able to shew its existence.

Camden, who wrote in Queen Elizabeth's reign, speaking of Dunwich, says, *that it lies in solitude and desolation*. Orford, he says, was once populous. At Eye, he finds nothing but the *rubbish* of an old monastery, and the *ruins* of a castle. He says of Castle-Rising, *it is ruined, and as it were expiring for age*. Yet this place had its charter to send members in the last year of Philip and Mary; and Eye, in the 13th of Elizabeth. This looks very little like any attention to give places of consequence only that privilege. Camelford, in Cornwall, he says, *is a little village*. Lestwithiel *is a little town, and not at all populous*. St. Germains,

He calls a small village, of nothing but fishermen's huts, yet this charter was no older than Elizabeth.

I have not time, at present, to search for the state of many boroughs in a former age, but these instances are sufficient to shew, not only that the constitution stood in this respect on as rotten a foundation in the reign of Elizabeth, as at present, but that charters for sending members to the House of Commons were actually granted to places of no kind of consideration. To what period then are we to look for that ideal perfection in this part of the constitution, which is not to be found in it at present?

Historians are agreed as to the Parliament of 1265, summoned by a usurper, being the origin of the House of Commons*: the Earl of Leicester ordered the attendance of representatives, from such places only as he thought proper, that is, from such as were known to be in his interest. The legal monarchs followed this example, and gave the power of election to whatever towns they thought proper, and ordered, in many cases, in whom the right of election should reside. What reforming writer has presumed to shew a period, in the number of centuries that have elapsed since, in which there ever existed, for one moment, an

* See Appendix.

equal

equal or a personal representation of the people? What then but empty factious nonsense is meant by the original purity of that system which was gradually formed in times of storm or despotism ; and never deserved the name of settled freedom till the Revolution. I speak only of facts ; as to the *principles* of the Constitution before that great æra, they are just what every writer pleases to call them ; to term them *pure*, is *gratis dictum* ; they may be pious or beautiful, or whatever the theory pleases ; it is not theory we demand, but **PRACTICE**.

It is not difficult to perceive that the advocates for reform rely much more on what they pretend to be the *principles* of the constitution, than upon any clear idea of its state in antient times. When once the vision of representation has got hold of an ill-regulated imagination, and the actual constitution of the kingdom is compared with that ideal standard ; *things as they are*, appear worthless, and then works the spirit of reform, to change them for *things as they should be* ; to square the legislature that governs fifteen millions of people, to the distempered fancies of speculative individuals. But nothing can be more futile, than presuming to lay down the principles of any complex constitution. Principles may be deduced from extremes, but not so easily from intermediate compounds. The principle of a despotism may be

be said to be *slavery*; the principle of a democracy may be called *anarchy*; but what is the principle of various aristocracies, mixed republics, and limited monarchies? Suppose a government (without entering into details) to be in general good, the principle of it is *liberty*: but there is Swiss liberty, Dutch liberty, American liberty, English liberty: attempt the analysis, and draw the principle of each, and what is the result, but the confusion of vain theories, as numerous and contradictory as the heads that dream them? But if the rage of speculation will have principles, every man will draw his own; and my conclusion would be, that the property of a kingdom should be the basis of representation. This appears to be fairly deducible from practice, in every age of our government, from Alfred to George: but personal representation never existed for a single moment; from what facts then is any principle deducible, that tends to it? What but presumption can call for changes in a legislature, that has taken five hundred years to mature itself into a system of liberty, unequalled on the globe, on no better foundation than the vague theories of such principles, drawn by reformers, at the instigation of poverty or ambition? Personal representation has laid France in the dust; but it has given the plunder of a kingdom to the vilest of mankind. Who can doubt our having such men in England, wishing anxiously

anxiously for similar events, as the sure road to similar plunder?

Some men are so strenuous in their ideas of reform, that they would extirpate all that is derived from the *feudal principle**. Such attribute the imaginary evils of our constitution to *the infernal feudal principle which subdued and stifled the genuine equalizing spirit of our constitution*. What is this *spirit* of the constitution? If, instead of speaking of principles and spirit, men would descend from the clouds, and talk of practice, we should understand them. But whether you have the spirit or the practice, certainly neither were *equalizing*, in any period whatever of our constitution. In all antient times, it knew of nothing but the domineering *superiority* of regal or aristocratical tyranny; the commonalty of the realm, slaves—villains—boors—cattle; unprotected, unrepresented. Whence then the spirit of equality? Thus it is with the eternal round of *principles* and *spirit*; they all resolve into declamation, theory, and faction.

The York petition, in 1785, sets out with saying, *that, sensible of the ORIGINAL EXCELLENCE of the constitution, they wish to have it maintained upon*

* *Speech on the Reformation of Parliament*, by William Jones, Esq; p. 12.

the GENUINE PRINCIPLES on which it was founded. If that meeting had been asked, what those genuine principles were? not a man of them could have answered the question. What are Dr. Johnson's definitions of the word *principle*?

1. *Element.*—Vary then the question; of what elements were the House of Commons composed, when first founded? Of knights elected by the tenants holding of the Crown in *capite*; of deputies sent by boroughs, to whom the Crown granted the privilege of chusing. Do you find your original excellence here?

2. *Original cause.*—What was the original cause of the House of Commons? The Crown. Is this your original excellence?

3. *Operative cause.*—What was the operative cause of the House of Commons? The Crown. Is here your original purity?

4. *Fundamental truth.*—What was the fundamental truth on which the House of Commons was founded? That the Crown had the power to found it. Is this original excellence to your mind?

5. *Ground of action.*—What was the ground of action* in founding the House of Commons? A

* "If we consider the influence the King had in demesne towns, he might as well have been absolute with a parliament, as without; and the parliament at first, so far as it consisted of commoners, was intended as a support to prerogative." Ruffhead Pref. Stat.

commission from the Crown. Will this original excellence suit your purpose?

Can any thing be so completely futile and paltry, as recurring, at this period of the meridian splendour of national liberty, to the original faint twilight,—the crepusculous glimmering of freedom, amidst the iron sway of feudal aristocracy!

Such writers are so occupied with the idea of what the constitution ought to be, that they overlook what it is. Abundance of this sort of stuff is to be found in the writings of Price, who never had any other view than to blow up the people into a civil war. According to this incendiary, if in speculation there could be devised a better system of legislation than is enjoyed by this kingdom, *the people have an inherent right to pull down the government, and build up what they think a better.* “*In every free state, every man is his own legislator. Government is an institution for the benefit of the people governed, which they have power to model as they please; and to say that they can have too much of this power, is to say, that there ought to be a power in the state, superior to that which gives it being.**” What a paraphrase on this text has been the whole of the French Revolution; that people were convinced,

* *Obser. on Civil Liberty*, p. 6. 12.

by such politicians as this reverend fire-brand, that they had a right to model their legislature as they pleased, and that they could not exercise too much of this power; and, by so doing, they proved, *that there ought to be a power in the state, superior to that of the people*,—who never become actively omnipotent, but to their utter ruin and destruction. No constitution or government could exist, while the people had the power to model it at pleasure; for they never had such a power, without being in its perpetual exercise; and a constitution perpetually changed, is not government, but anarchy. So utterly contemptible are all these theories of liberty, when brought to the test of practice! But despicable as they are, in the eyes of well-informed men, they are calculated to mislead and inflame the vulgar; hence the mischief of a licentious press. A free press may be properly exerted to abuse a minister; but when it is allowed to vomit forth the poison of such infamous doctrines, levelled point blank against a constitution, the safe-guard and protector of a nation, rendered GREAT and HAPPY by the benignity of its influence—in such a case the *freedom of the press* becomes the *slavery of the people*.

Thus the capital error in the writers who have treated of the British constitution, is that of stating the representative system to be *in fact* what they in

theory suppose good: this is the case also with both Montesquieu and De Lolme. One would imagine, from various passages in those writers, that the people governed themselves by their representatives; that the representatives voted according to the pleasure of the people, which is the apparent theory of the representative government; but we know that this is not the case in any representative government, and Rousseau saw it so, or he would not have declared a man a slave the moment he chose a representative. In England, a portion of the members of the House of Commons is influenced by the Crown and by the Lords; another portion elect themselves; and the remainder, though elected by the people, yet consider themselves as not bound by instructions, and pursue that conduct generally, which to themselves alone seems good: all this influence is poison in the eyes of reformers—but to men who are governed entirely by facts, and who consequently despise theory, this influence appears to be coëval with our freedom, if not the sole cause of it. Fact therefore justifies it; and the counter experiment of France has proved, that representation uninfluenced generates tyranny. But, at the same time that the representation of the people in England is really influenced in this manner, truth allows us to declare, that this influence goes but to a certain degree; it is an influence to induce the Commons
not

not to act like turbulent tribunes, but to perform their real duty to their country. With power in that body at any time to overthrow the constitution, influence is exerted to induce them to respect it ; and why has it this happy effect, since so many of the members are really chosen by the people ? Because the property of the kingdom is in the hands of those members, for the most part ; and such a stake is the best pledge against their embarking in designs dangerous to the public repose.

All but Jacobins admit, that with this system of influence, which seems corruption to the eye of ignorance, the liberties of the people have been to the present hour constantly improving ; and for a century past have very far exceeded any other system of freedom the world ever saw. If influence were as mischievous as some visionaries would make us believe, how could this be so ? We are happy under the government of influence, how then can it be bad ? It is in truth an influence to engage men to their duty. They have the power of mischief in their hands, and influence craves them not to use it.

But influence may be exerted to sway men to mischief, and even to destroy the liberties of the people.

Not while the property of the kingdom is in the hands of the members—for they have palpably a stronger motive to guard them against such extremes, than any that can be exerted against the national welfare; men of property may be influenced to do good, but does it therefore follow that they would be influenced to do evil? To sell the fee simple of their own importance? While the government of the kingdom is in the hands of those who have property, tempered as it is on one side by popular election, and on the other by the legal rights of the Crown, all must be safe. But where would be our security if the House of Commons were filled with the demagogues of provincial mobs; whose first recommendation was poverty, and their second innovation? Our security *would be*, where that of France *is*.

Thus it is with reports of committees—of our “friends”—sections of associations, for spreading discontent—off-sets of sedition, who detail the parliamentary influence of the Earl of Lonsdale, Lords Elliot, Edgecumbe, &c. and who take great pains to shew that a small number of voters, compared with the number of the people at large, elect the House of Commons. Well; you state the fact; but the fact simply stated means nothing—leads to no conclusions. Have you presumed to state what

what was the case 100 years ago—200 years—300 years past? in order to shew that the people once possessed something which they have now lost? No: you know what would be the event of that inquiry, and *therefore* you are silent! You state, that in the constitution of England 2600 persons return 320 members. What then? You might also have stated, that in the same constitution the King returns the whole House of Lords. You state a fact; but do you prove that fact an evil? How are we to know whether it be really an evil or a benefit? Are we to rely on our own experience for an answer, or shall we come to your theory for the decision? The question is in a nutshell. We feel that we are free under this constitution, that you want us to intend with French assistance. We know that English practice is good—we know that French theory is bad.—What inducement have we, therefore, to listen to your speculations, that condemn what all England feels to be good—and approve what all France experiences to be mischievous?

The fact is, that the present constitution of England was gradually extorted, sword in hand, from feudal sovereigns, deriving *their* rights from the sword of a conqueror: nobly extorted; but derived from no other right. It is now legally established, and has the sanction of ages to give

it the veneration that, with wise men, belongs to ancient establishments ; and those persons who demand the constitution of some preceding age (which they ought to demand, when they speak of *purity*, greater than that of the present age), as a system better than what we enjoy, are bound to name the period, when the liberty of the subject was in theory better defined, or in practice better protected.

There is indeed a period to which our reformers allude with singular pleasure, and which is in their contemplation oftener than they name it ;—the republic in the middle of the last century ;—there was the *purity* admired by so many ; a period that bore some resemblance to the present in France. The parliament, which met in 1640, are termed, by a female historian, “ Patriots, whose number, virtues, and abilities, were greater than had ever been convened in any age or country.” If such men were guilty of enormities and tyranny, it must arise from the situation, and not from the peculiar structure of their bosoms. Two words will dispatch their actions : they passed a triennial bill, and sat themselves 13 years. They quarrelled with the King for levying 200,000l. a year illegally, and in five years they raised, by their own single authority, **FOURTY MILLIONS**, fully equal to one hundred millions at present.—They were accused
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by one of their own party of dividing 300,000l. among their own members—An accusation highly probable, when it is upon record, that in the assessments of those infinite burthens they laid on the people, their own members were exempted, so as to be taxed only by one another—They instituted country committees, with power to fine, sequester, imprison, and corporally punish, without appeal, and without law—They put an imprimatur on the press—and they abolished the trial by jury against their own accusations—They pressed men into their armies, and then passed ordinances for punishing them if they ran away—The King and Parliament had never yet fixed an excise on BREAD, flesh, and every consumable commodity; but the Parliament alone did it without compunction. If this manual of tyranny is good, we should do wisely to repeat it. The whole ended, as might have been foreseen, in a pure despotism, as the present copy of it will do in France.

There cannot be a more serious, or a more awful subject for Parliament to enter upon, than that of any *alterations* in the constitution: that there could not be a better one, nobody will assert; it may be possible, that a nation might enjoy the same blessings at a less expence; but to give us a *change* under the name of an *improvement*, is a dangerous experiment. What is called a real representation of

the people (that is, an equal representation) and biennial Parliaments, would certainly be a *great* change; property now has the power of this realm; and under such a change, population would have the power; in some governments of America this is the case; but America has no indigent poor, or at least very few, arising from plenty of land; thus America is no example applicable to us. We see very exactly in France, what is the case of an indigent poor possessed of power. So great a change, as taking the government of the kingdom from property, and giving it to population, is not *restoring* principles of purity, but establishing *new* ones; an absolutely untried experiment any where but in France. If it is once admitted that property ought to possess the power, it is of very little consequence whether the election is by burgage tenures or any other mode, as the men of the greatest property will find themselves in the house; and as to the Crown, Orford and Harwich shew that it is as likely to lose a borough as to gain one. The question, however, is of such importance, that reasoning ought not to be admitted; the FACT is, that property possesses the preponderancy of power at present in the House of Commons; the changes proposed, all tend to remove it from property to population; this is not a *restoration*, but an absolute *novelty*.

There are men pretending to be moderate, who argue for, and are ready to declare their approbation of the English constitution, as fixed in King, Lords, and Commons, considering the Commons as the representatives *of the people*; and they contend that as the Commons do purport to be a representation of the people, they wish for no other alteration in the government than to make that House *really* that which it purports to be. This is the most rational ground that any reformer can take, because here is a semblance of propriety. Very few words will be necessary to shew *from facts* that it is only a semblance.

I contend, in reply, that it is mere theory to suppose that the House of Commons purports to be the representatives of the people, if by representation is meant *choice*. Being once chosen by the few, they represent the many *. They *purport* to be nothing more than what they *are*: and they are nothing more than this—men sitting in a senate, and forming a third branch of the legislature, chosen by certain bodies, who, by the constitution, have the privilege of electing them. They may

* “ Every member of the British parliament, though chosen by one particular district, when elected and returned, serves for the whole realm. For the end of his coming thither is not particular, but general; not barely to advantage his constituents, but the commonwealth, and to advise his Majesty, as appears from the writ of summons.” *Blackstone.*



be accurately described without using the word, or referring to the idea of representation. To call them the representatives of the people, is a very inaccurate mode of expression ; they ought never to be called by any other name than the House of Commons, to distinguish them from the House of Lords. If they were *really* the representatives of *the people*, they might in theory be good, or better ; but they would be something else than what *they are*, and consequently different from that which has rendered us a great, a free, and a happy nation.

But there is not the least reason to think that they were ever deemed the representatives of the people ; certainly not the Knights, for the 40s. qualification of electors, the value of money considered, was nearer 40l. of present money. The notion of representation and delegation of rights and privileges from the electors, has vitiated and turned to confusion so many ideas on the subject, because writers and parliaments themselves, to suit the purposes of a moment, have thought it for their interest to be esteemed something different than what they really are. The electors of members of parliament do not delegate powers, nor entrust privileges, if, by delegation, is meant the transfer of something possessed by those who deputise ; for the electors have neither those powers
nor

nor those privileges, and therefore cannot delegate them. But the members when elected, and in combination with the other branches of the legislature, assume, and possess, and give themselves such powers and privileges, which those did not possess who sent them. Hence, then, the septennial act was just as constitutional as the biennial.

But, on the other hand, suppose a nation in any period of confusion or anarchy of all constituted powers, should, by universal consent and suffrage, elect a convention or parliament, for the purpose of declaring what in future shall be the *National Will*; here you have palpably all the ideas of representation realized, and such deputies ought to speak the direct voice of the people, but such a republic (for it could be nothing else), is a government as distinct from that of England as Algiers is; and our House of Commons has not the smallest resemblance with such an assembly in its origin, its progress, or its functions. It is not necessary to characterise such a government, the case of France is directly in point.

If the house of Commons were such representatives, and renewed in short parliaments, they would be guided by the passions, folly, and madness of the people; we see in France what that leads to: at present they are guided by their own wisdom.

wisdom. *But they are corrupt and bribed.* If they are bribed in order to act wisely it is an argument directly against you, and tends to prove that there is something on the verge of danger in all numerous assemblies, which if not controuled by prerogative or influence, would hazard the public peace. We know, on experience, that they do act wisely, for nothing but a wise government can make a happy people. If the nature of such an assembly demands to be corrupted, in order to pursue the public good, who but a visionary can wish to remove corruption? Government certainly would have been carried on cheaper if honesty alone had induced our House of Commons to act as it is said corruption has induced them; but if the vices of mankind can, by a well poised constitution, be made to contribute to their good government, would it not be insanity to change the system, and imitate the French, who depend only on their virtues?

Examine the House of Commons in whatever light you will, and it will be found to possess, in the power of the purse, so enormous an authority*, that the

* " In these days, when every thing is rated by pecuniary estimation; when gold is become the great moving spring of affairs; it may be safely affirmed, that he who depends on the will of another man, with regard to so important an article, is, whatever his power may be in other respects, in a state of real dependence. This is the case of the King of England; he has, in that capacity, and

the other branches of the legislature are absolutely at its mercy: what prevents it from swallowing them up? Is it good to prevent it? Is it necessary even for the liberty of the people? If it is necessary, how best done? Would the best way of effecting it be popular representation and short parliaments, a system in which all corruption, or even influence, would be impossible? The obvious reply finishes the chain of reasoning from fact, and proves the utter absurdity of such propositions. But grant for a moment the expedience of the experiment, and suppose that you have such a House of Commons, on what will you then depend? On their moderation and virtue; but this moderation and virtue have not been tried. If the theory of what moderation may do, and the speculation of what virtue may effect, are as just grounds to build on as fact and experiment; in such case I am ready to agree, that we may, without impropriety, exchange the positive possession of what we enjoy at present, for the hope and expectation of something better; and to fix here, you have only to prove

and without the grant of his people, scarcely any revenue." *De Lolme*, p. 75. The truth is obvious, and strikes both foreigners and natives in the same manner. Let an unpopular Prince of Wales, on his coming to the throne, meet, by means of personal representation, a republican House of Commons—and monarchy would either be extinguished, or the kingdom filled with blood and rapine; but in either case, anarchy would ensue, and lead once more to despotism.

that

that theory is as satisfactory as practice. To which fine inquiry I leave you as one fairly on a par with the philosophy of France.

Still the advocates for a reform return to the charge, and assert, that parliament, as elected at present, does not speak the will of the people, and that a House of Commons ought to speak that will. The argument is a good one for those who relish theory. But I contend, on the contrary line of fact, that the prosperity and happiness we have enjoyed for a century, and never so great as at present*, is owing precisely to the House of Commons NOT speaking the will of the people; and I am founded in the fact, so notorious to all the world, that such prosperity has grown to its present height under the influence of a House elected not by persons, but by property. If a parliament, speaking

* It is remarkable, that the changes which have taken place in our constitution, clearly in favour of the national liberties, are, by our reformers, lamented as being inimical to freedom. If there is one leading position in M. De Lolme's Treatise on the English Constitution, more clearly proved than another, by reference to many governing facts in history, it is that of the importance of having but one legislative assembly in a kingdom: yet, in full opposition to a truth so manifest, Mr. Grey, in his speech on reform, May 6th, 1793, stated the union with Scotland to be a measure that had dangerously increased the power of the Crown. If there is any truth in the observation of that ingenious foreigner, the union ought, on the contrary, to be considered as one of the most important events in favour of liberty.

therefore

therefore the voice *not of the people*, has made us what we are, and if National Assemblies, speaking the voice of the people, have brought France to her present situation, I have a double experiment to support me in the assertion, that reforming or changing the constitution of our House of Commons, so as to make it speak some new voice, untried in this kingdom, would be a procedure on theory, and worthy of theorists only.

If corruption and influence have given a century of happiness to this kingdom, and if purity and patriotism can in four years so completely ruin an empire, as they have ruined our neighbour, I beg for one, that the *vices* of England may govern me, and by no means the *virtues* of France; the vices of our government have wealth, ease, and prosperity in their train; the virtues of theirs, operating by equal representation, biennial elections, and uncorrupt majorities, have brought with them bloodshed, anarchy, and ruin. The contrast carries decision in the front.

A word, however, might be said on the point of personal representation rendering the real will of the people supreme. The futility of the idea is demonstrated in the conduct of the Assemblies so chosen in France; their first merit on Jacobin principles is that of speaking the sovereign will of the

the people, by which expression is always understood *the majority*: but so truly abominable is this system of government, that there has not been a single instance of great and marked importance, in which the minority, and commonly a very small minority, has not, by means of terror, carried all before them. The Constituent Assembly acted in defiance of their cahiers, which were the instructions given them by their constituents; and they did this with a mob raging at their doors, in their gallery, and even on their benches, and in the chair of their president. I mean in the fundamentals of the constitution, such as maintaining the monarchy, &c.; in many secondary objects of importance, the Constituent Assembly obeyed their cahiers, as I have shewn in another place. What that Assembly did that was good, is however of the least possible consequence, for the plainest of all reasons; they formed, at the same time, a constitution that could not support itself, and consequently the good things they did were committed to the winds. Whatever has appeared respectable in representation in France, was in that first Assembly; the second was mob; and for the third the kennels were swept. The second, at one stroke, knocked down all that was built by the first. It remains yet to be seen, whether the third will not do the same by the second; every step they have hitherto taken has been a page from the code

code of anarchy. The National Assembly acted under the dominion of the pikes of Paris ; witness that memorable vote, consecrated to eternal infamy, when 280 voices, having driven, by menaces, and blood, and massacre, the majority to absence or silence, dethroned the King, and abolished the constitution, which all France had sworn to live and die with. The Convention, which has assembled since, have exhibited the same spectacle ; have been incessantly bullied by the mob in the galleries ; have voted with a pike at their throats, and existed in the hourly expectation of being allowed to exist no longer ; murdered their prince by a majority of *five* voices, though their law required three-fourths at least for declaring guilt, or for pronouncing death ; and the majority obtained by the menaces of the assassins paid by *Egalité*. The consummation of political infamy ! The murder of the best prince that ever sat upon the throne of France : the only monarch that country ever knew, that was a real friend to liberty, or that ever sincerely wished to render his people truly happy. A great and awful lesson to all the princes of the world :—not a lesson teaching mildness ; attention to complaints ; an ear to the friends of innovation ; a protection of arts, and literature, and philosophy ; not an instruction to enlighten ; not a call to teach the ignorant ; not a wish to soften power into persuasion, or to change the stern dictates of authority

for the mild voice of humanity and feeling. NO : this great abomination demands other sentiments ; and ought to generate (for the real felicity of the human race) a tighter reign in the jaws of that monster, the worst and most hideous caricature of human depravity, the metaphysical, philosophical, atheistical, Jacobin republican ;—abhorred for ever, for holding out to all the sovereigns of the earth, that the only prince who ever voluntarily placed bounds to his own power—**DIED FOR IT ON THE SCAFFOLD**, and ruined his people while he destroyed himself. He gave ear to those who told him of abuses ; he wished to *ease* his people ; he sought popularity ; he allowed the liberty of the press, and would not restrain even its licentiousness ; he cherished the arts, to produce a David ; and nourished, in the bosom of protected science, a Condorcet * ; he would not shed the blood of traitors, conspirators, and rebels † ; he listened to those

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* That is to say, the virtuous meritorious character, of whom we have peers who have publicly declared themselves *proud of his correspondence*. Let those, who would wish to know him well, read his character in *La Mettrie Journal Physique*, and the memoirs of the assassination of the Duke de la Rochefoucauld.

† And this humanity called on his memory the abominably unfeeling remark, which I have somewhere read, in the register, I suppose, of some night cellar, that the *physical pain* he suffered in his execution was less than the slow torments of La Fayette. Did the innocent Louis declare that *insurrection*, by which they both fell, to be

who petitioned for a REFORM.—WE ALSO have those who demand a REFORM,—and when the legislature of this kingdom, unwarmed by this great example, shall listen to the doctrines that have drenched France with blood, we also may see spectacles too horrid now to think of; did not the late tragedy tell us, that no iniquity is too black for republican reformation.

This damned event, deep written in the characters of hell, has thrown a stupor over mankind: when the princes and legislators of the world recover from it, the observation of Machiavelli, will not probably be forgotten: *Perchè con pochissimi esempi sarai più pietoso, che quelli li quali per troppa pietà lasciano seguire i disordini onde naschino occisioni o rapine.*

It is well enough amongst men, who never see a remote cause, when an immediate one is before them, to attribute this deep stain in human annals to the butchers who are in the Convention; in like manner the ambition of Cromwell was the direct cause of the death of Charles I.: but these are not the first causes; they are rather the natural result

be the most sacred of duties? And are the children of the author of that sentiment clinging to the knees of a father leading to execution? The more Jacobinism we read, the more amiable it appears,

of preceding events. It is not Robespierre and Egalité that have murdered Louis, it was Necker with his *double tiers*; it is PERSONAL REPRESENTATION to which this horrible crime, preceded (and which will be followed) by so many others, is alone to be attributed. And should ever similar deeds again blot the national character of this kingdom, it is not the wretches who shall form some distant convention of anarchy, to whom the mischief should be attributed, but to our REFORMERS; to our Jacobin advocates for *improving* our representation; for doing that here which has deluged France in her best blood. Such is personal representation; such is the sovereign will of a mob; such is the majesty of the people; such is liberty, when founded on Equality and Rights of Man! Representation destroys itself; and generates, with infallible certainty, an oligarchy of mobbish demagogues, till, of all other voices, that least heard is the real will of the people: 280 voices declare the will of 745 in the legislature; and 11,000 voices in Paris are the organ of 150,000 voters!!! Bad as you may make rotten boroughs, are they as bad as this?

"Hereditary legislators," says Paine, "are as absurd as hereditary wise men; and as ridiculous as an hereditary poet-laureat." You shall make them

them just what you please, provided you do not open the door of a convention: What are REPRESENTATIVES, ELECTED BY THE GENERAL SUFFRAGE OF A NATION? Of what is the present Convention of France composed? Of the lowest, poorest, most profligate, and most worthless of the people—of the scum of gaols, of their gallies, and of our hulks—of robbers and cut-throats, without character, without fortune, without a hope under any system but that of anarchy—and of persons of a description not quite so low, but of characters, if possible, more blasted than those of butchers or taylors can be. What is Condorcet, Paine, Brissot, Rabbeau!!! What are they but men who prove, that some education, some knowledge, some talents, are necessary to sink mankind into its lowest and basest state of depression and guilt? Who can doubt of our having men of all these descriptions in England? Some have been sedulous to register their names on the tablets of that Convention.—Empty our gaols—stop the ships that are sailing to Botany Bay—and who can question that, with the assistance of our reforming societies, we could form a British Convention, that might rival in merit the Assembly at Paris? Men in sufficient numbers might be found, and of sufficient poverty, who would consider a seat in a National Convention of England, with boundless power to

rob and murder, as the consummation of human happiness. CAN SUCH MEN BE FRIENDS TO THE PRESENT WAR? No, assuredly. It blots their prospects—it brings perdition to their hopes. Powerfully as they are instigated to deprecate a war—just in that degree are all honest men, the friends of law and order, bound to bless the wisdom of government, that has awakened to the dangers that threatened us, and taken the effectual means of WAR to secure to us our houses, our properties and estates, our laws, our religion, and our lives. A war in such a cause, founded in such motives, was never before a question in Britain. Will you have a municipality in your hall, and a pike in your bosom, with what some men call peace? or will you keep French assassins at a distance, and English Jacobins amenable to English law, by a WAR?

To return from this digression—the absolute nonsense of all that Paine says on the distinct natures of a constitution and a government, applied not to a fœderation of independent republics as America, but confounded, as he confounds it with the new constitution of France, was gloriously exemplified in the National Assembly, (which was the *government*) destroying the constitution; demanding of the people (that is of anarchy) to make a new one. Here the fact clearly is,
that

that an equal representation, sitting in one house, and in a great city, had the power to destroy a constitution established and sworn to by all France; and the conclusion is, that, let the next constitution be what it may, it will be equally in the power of the government of the day, assembling at Paris, to destroy that also.

An argument I have heard much urged is this—that something should be granted to moderate men, in order to separate them from the *republican* party. It is urged, that the obstinacy of the legislature, granting nothing, drives moderate men to associate with others not equally moderate in their views; but if a temperate reform were to be effected, or even commenced by the legislature, all who are at present with reason discontented, would be detached from the reformers, and the violent party would sink for want of notice.

In replying to this common objection, I do not mean to assert, that all innovation should always be rejected; I would only bring to the recollection of moderate men, certain circumstances, which it is fair to weigh.

The clubs, associations, and societies, who assemble with views of enforcing reformation, on certain plans projected by various writers, some

moderate, some violent, have published repeatedly to the world the principles on which they would found the national freedom, and the multifarious changes they would make in the constitution; these very generally go to great lengths. While imaginations are heated by the example of France; while the most unlimited panegyric is profusely lavished on the Revolution; while the demands made are of a nature that threaten the entire overthrow of our government; while those Rights of Man, which have deluged France in blood, are openly professed as leading principles in the improvements called for here, it may surely be admitted in candour, as a fair reply to the moderate,—that to give a little, when a great deal is demanded, does not seem the way to quiet clamour; and when, by a thousand publications and resolutions, it is declared, that PERSONAL REPRESENTATION is the panacea for all our evils (though under a hundred various names), and demanded even with threats and menaces, it must be palpable to every considerate man, that small concessions to satisfy the moderate would be lost in the agitation of the moment,—despised as the concessions of timidity, wrested from fear, not granted by conviction. They would be made a vantage ground for new demands; and clamour, instead of being silenced, would vociferate with renewed vigour.

All demands, therefore, that come under the theory or practice of personal representation, should be resisted, on principle, with firmness; and a determined resolution never to take that first step to anarchy, confusion, bloodshed, and Jacobinism, which, in one word, sums up all that is atrocious in political depravity. This ought to be considered as the only line of demarcation clearly defined, that separates moderation of sentiment from insanity of innovation.

"When the right," says Paine, "to make a constitution is established in a nation, there is no fear that it will be employed to its own injury. A nation can have no interest in being wrong." But here, as in every page of his work, the practice of France is the reply to the theory of his sedition. That kingdom *established* such right; and what was the consequence? Why it proved no more than the right to cut her own throat. It was employed to much more than her injury, for it was employed to her utter destruction. That a nation can have no interest in being wrong is a trueism; but in contradiction to her own interest, she chose never to be right. What is the force and worth of such a writer's eternal strings of assertion, when brought to the test of French experiment!

The principle of our constitution is the representation of property; imperfectly in theory, but efficiently in practice; by means of apparent defects, but which, perhaps, are disguised merits, the great mass of property, both landed, monied, and commercial, finds itself represented; and that the evils of such representation are trivial, will appear from the ease, happiness, and security of all the lower classes, hence possibly virtual representation takes place, even where the real seems most remote.

If virtual representation is good, would not real representation be better?—No, replies experiment; it has been tried in France, and failed entirely; real personal representation is not a people well governed, but the government of the people; that is to say, anarchy and ruin. If parliament acts from the immediate impulse of the people, and it can act no otherwise with personal representation, the wisdom of the community is governed by the folly of it. While experience gives the living and energetic sanction to this principle, in the clearest and most unquestioned prosperity that any nation ever yet enjoyed, would it not be insanity to risk this fair inheritance, this rich possession, on the crude deductions of new theories; on supposititious improvement; ideal benefits, and speculative reformation? Yet this is pleaded for by the advocates

advocates for Rights of Men. On grounds of such pure theory, a prudent farmer would not change the culture of a turnip field; yet these reformers, on no better foundation, call for alterations in a government that has given prosperity to a great empire.

It is said, that *every commoner in England, who does not vote for a member of parliament, is a slave, because they are governed by rulers whom other men have set over them**. The French were exactly of the same opinion—they adopted this theory—and it became in practice—what?—There are, says the same writer, *in England, one million two hundred and eighty thousand male slaves**. So acute a calculator should tell us how many slaves there are in France; he may first count all except the Convention, and when he enters the holy temple of that virtuous assembly, he may ask which are the masters, the members who obey, or the tribunes who command?

Nor let us forget that these men have been equal friends to the French Revolution from the beginning, and they are steadily so at this moment; under the Constituent Assembly, they approved, and published panegyrics on the annihilation of orders: under the next assembly, they re-

* *The People's Barrier*, p. 11.

joiced at the demolition of royalty ; and under the Convention, all the horrors we have seen are insufficient to remove their approbation. Does not this conduct prove clearly, that when these politicians tell us they mean, and wish moderate and temperate reform only, they insult our understandings ? If they really desired any thing short of the total overthrow of our government, would they continue to enlist, to speak, and to write, under Jacobin banners ? Would they exalt the destruction of the old government of France, as the greatest event of history ? Would they glory in French events, effected as they have been by proscriptions and massacre ? You want only temperate reform,—I will tell you what you want, by the company you keep ;—if you are a party in associations, you want THAT for which those associations combine :—if you call for personal representation, you call for THAT which personal representation has given to France ;—if you demand a popular Assembly, subjected to popular phrenzy, you demand the effects which such an Assembly produced with our neighbours. You would go only certain lengths—but you herd with those, and give them your countenance who you know would push events much further ; have we not, therefore, reason for judging directly from your actions, that you *mean* more than you think political to *avow* ?

It is curious to remark the conduct of certain men, calling themselves moderate, who make the tour of reforming societies, but quit them when they go too far. There are such now clamorous amongst the *Friends of the People*, who have struck their names out of the *Constitutional Society*, as they found its views too bold: this is the exact miniature of a Revolution; the first instigators want, perhaps, a moderate reform of abuses, and when their companions drive at more, they separate; but such companions do not stop their pursuit for want of moderate men, who, by their countenance, brought the ill-designing into consequence, and it is then no longer in their power to suppress them. Thus the *Constitutional Society*, though quitted by the respectable, were not therefore silent, but at the bar of the Convention of France, hail the coming Convention of England: the men who quitted the *Constitutional Society* will quit the *friends of the people*: when they have nursed up the mischievous into a society of importance, they will be driven out if they refuse to go all lengths, and will find that the only result, of their moderate views, has been to promote, and bring into efficacy, the immoderate designs of those who think our constitution the temple of Dagon; and that to level it in the dust is a duty, in order that out of its ruins may arise the “heavenly form” and “delightful vision” of a French Convention. What is the conclusion?—

That

That the first lines of discontent are in fact the most dangerous ; that moderate reform, or any reform at all, *on principle*, is a sure step to all that followed reform in France ; Jacobinism, anarchy, and blood.

The present anxiety, real or pretended, for the true *principles, purity, and spirit* of the constitution, is an extraordinary proof how far imaginary evils can prevail amidst real blessings. The people are free, but they are anxious to know the principles of their freedom : they are happy, but they must know in what consists the spirit of their happiness : they are secure, but they must have their security analized. Do they find that their bread fails to nourish them, because they do not understand the distinct qualities of its constituent parts—its starch, its saccharine, and its glutinous particles ? Does roast beef lose its nutritive qualities, because they know not the hidden operation by which grass is converted, through the chemistry of nature, into the flesh of an ox ? There are men, in every polished society, whose education, fortune, habits, and studies enable them, by long and difficult experiments, to bring to light the hidden works of nature ; but it would be folly to imagine that the mass of mankind can make themselves masters of such knowledge ; yet this is easier to acquire, than to understand the difficult machinery

nery of a complex government. Liberty may be the general result, and felt by the most ignorant of the people; but to know what are the effects of every movement; what would be the result of withdrawing a wheel, or of adding a spring; in what manner the general harmony would be affected; these are inquiries to which the mass of mankind are absolutely inadequate. The best informed and most enlightened persons vary in their opinions; a proof that experiment is the only sure guide:—but to extract from history those facts that bear upon the question—to separate theory from practice—and to draw from experience the cases that are in point—is a business which demands education to instruct, and leisure to reflect. The important question is not, who *are* fitted for the inquiry? but, who *are not*? and it is simply impossible that the people should be so. It would be absurd to suppose, that the town of Nottingham can produce 2500 men fitted for such inquiries; who, demanding changes in the constitution, can know what the effect of those changes would be. It is palpable therefore, at the first sight, from their mere number, that they petition for they know not what. *Yes*; we know well that we are *not represented*, and we want to be so. Was your father represented? *No*. Was your grandfather represented? *No*. Were any of your ancestors represented? *No*. Why then, you demand a novelty:

velty: you demand that people should be represented, who never were represented. That is a change in the government. Do you know what would be the result of that change? No. Why then go home and make stockings, but do not pretend to fabricate governments *.

* Methinks I hear a reformer, of a higher class, and therefore more mischievous, exclaim—*A pretty dialogue! why is no put in his mouth?* He might have answered yes: I know well the result; corruption would be banished from the constitution. But the answer to this gentleman reformer is just as decisive. If he banish something, it implies that that something at present exists in the constitution; and it cannot exist in it, without being a part of it; it may be a bad part, but it is a part. Thus you take from a complex machinery a wheel:—Do you know how the machine will go when that wheel is removed? What is the answer but THEORY?—In comparing the constitution to a machine that has gone well for an hundred years, perhaps it is indifferent whether influence (which these reformers call corruption, and they might call it adultery with as much truth) be termed the oil or the dust of the machine, for if it has gone well for a century, and seems, while certain wheels are half covered with dust, to go better than formerly; I would no more allow the dust to be brushed away, than I would permit the oil to be removed. I might perhaps conclude, that the engineer had made an error in calculating the delivery of the oil, which the dust corrected; and the going of the machine would never fail to tell me when it wanted cleaning. Influence, however, is not the dust, but the oil of the machine. The constitution never went for a moment without influence; and to remove it would be taking away the oil which has given a century of smoothness. And may not the observation be applied with double force, when I see a neighbour who has been so busy in brushing, and cleaning, and oiling, and taking springs out, and putting wheels into his machine, that the whole is tumbled about his ears?

"For some time after the settlement of the Saxons in England, their slaves were in the same circumstances with their horses, oxen, cows, and sheep, except that it was not fashionable to kill and eat them. The truth is, these unhappy men could not so much as call their lives their own, for these might have been taken from them by their masters, with perfect impunity, and by any other person, for paying their price to their owners." *Henry*, vol. iii. p. 332. Now I would wish to know, whether these petitioners for restoring the constitution to its original purity (which purity is explained by so many reformers to allude to Saxon times) are desirous of exchanging their present liberty under George III. for that which their ancestors enjoyed, under the Etheldreds and Ethelwolfs of Saxon dynasties? The situation, rights, privileges, and enjoyments of English free men, are insufficient;—they count, among the one million, two hundred and eighty thousand slaves, registered by a reformer, and therefore they desire to go back to the pure dispensations of Saxon equality, when he who knocked the poor people on the head, paid the fine of so many bushels of wheat, provided they belonged not to him. This is literally and correctly the demand of those workmen and labouring poor, who now ask for the original purity, principles, or spirit of the English Constitution. Not contented with roast

beef, they petition for a Saxon cudgel on their backs; and indeed the object of their desires would be not ill adapted to their deserts. The lower the classes are in society at present, the less reason have they to be dissatisfied; and the more preposterous are their complaints relative to any original purity of government, not enjoyed by them at present. The ancestors of men in the higher classes, might possibly have been more free; or, if not more free themselves, at least had more power over all below them; but as to the lower orders of society at present, their ancestors must either have been in a better situation, lost by their own folly (an evil no government can cure), or in as mean a one in antient times; in which case they were the slaves, villains, and bondmen of land-proprietors: at all events, therefore, the working poor of this age have the least possible reason for complaint, *on this principle of reasoning and comparison.*

The revolutions that have changed the relative position of families, in the long course of eight hundred or a thousand years, have been so great, that there are now very few land-proprietors, whose ancestors were Saxon thanes; the great mass of all the higher classes of society at present, are probably descended from the villains and slaves of that period, or from emigrants from the rest of Europe.

Europe. And we may firmly assert, without apprehension of a rational contradiction, that (comparing the present age with any preceding one) there is not a single class, order, or set of men (country gentlemen of small estates alone excepted) who are not in a better situation at this moment, than their ancestors at any former periods. And if the comparison be made between this age, and the early ones of our constitution, that is, the time of the Saxons, or the three first centuries after the conquest, no class whatever have experienced so great an amelioration as that of the labouring poor, of whatever denomination; as might easily be shewn, were this the proper place for it; for the other classes were *free* in those early ages, but these were *SLAVES*.

If any attempts, at so perilous a season, to reform the constitution, must be attended with such unquestionable danger, reasoning as we may justly do on the experiment of France, it will follow, that EVERY INTEREST in this kingdom is bound to resist, with the utmost solicitude, such mischievous projects, the execution of which amongst our neighbours, has deluged a great kingdom with universal ruin.

THE LANDED INTEREST is immediately and most essentially concerned; for the poison of

equality in principle, and in French practice, tends directly to their ruin: the fate of landlords, in France, is too well known to want repetition; their estates seized; their chateaus plundered and burnt; their wives and daughters violated; and themselves either murdered or driven into exile; and this to an almost incredible extent. I have seen details which shew, that the landed property of more than half the kingdom has changed hands. The farmers have not much more to boast of, for they have paid dearly for their exemption from tithes in the violent attacks made on the size of farms and consequent division; the hard silver which, under the *old* government, was the price of their products, is become paper depreciated to half its value under the *new*; and even this wretched substitute they are not allowed to receive at a fair market; their treatment in this respect has been already detailed: out-voted, and consequently cheated in taxation; at market plundered by the mob; at home plundered by the military. Are these facts to make our English yeomanry and farmers wish to try their skill at mending the constitution? Are they calculated to give us any respect for clubs and societies, whose object is the reform of that constitution which has rendered our situation directly the reverse of France? Do such facts give us reason to love the men who want to convert your plough-shares into pikes, and your coulters into daggers?

daggers ? Who would recommend you to change your sickles for the sabres of a company of patriot contractors ? Gentlemen who have shewn themselves exceedingly adroit in cutting down fields of French corn. I wish you to make experiments in husbandry, but do not let them be of this complexion : do not let other men, and especially reformers, make experiments on your property, your bread, and your blood ; three objects upon which many experiments have been tried in France, and we have seen that the success has not been such as gives us reason to try our hands at the same work : for, in one word, their property is gone ; for bread they have the bark of trees ; and as to blood, it is the only manure the fields of France have seen, from the first moment she listened to reformers. Is she then to us an example or a warning ?

Traders and manufacturers can presently convert their wealth into money, and fly with it on paper wings wherever property remains secure ; but the farmer is chained to a spot ; his property is invested in the soil he cultivates ;—he has no power of movement, but must abide the beating of the storm, be it pitiless as it may.—To him, therefore, the new fangled doctrines of equality ought to appear in all their native deformity ; for they are doctrines that tend directly to his destruction ; and from whose pestilential influence he cannot, like others, fly.

THE MONIED INTEREST, in moments of convulsion, have some advantages, from the more portable nature of their wealth; but the warning of France may instruct, that nothing can escape the depredations flowing from the Rights of Man. Their national debt, amounting to 300 millions sterling, has been treated not altogether with the delicacy shewn to the public creditors of England, for every sort of bankruptcy, but a nominal and declared one, has been committed; and the interest on funds and mortgages paid, has been in assignats: if a man sells stock, he receives assignats; and though assignats are portable, what is their value on the exchange of London, or the Stadt-house at Amsterdam*?—Of ninety millions sterling

* The astonishing and daily coinage of assignats, by the Convention, must have effects, which they do not seem clearly to foresee; from their readiness to issue paper, it should seem that they expect a possible continuance of the same facility, but in this they will certainly find themselves deceived. The amount in circulation much exceeds what is known. The number of forgers of false assignats, now in their gaols, proves this fact; but the great deluge is not by men within their power. The Princes, the Duke of Brunswick, and all the enemies of France, in every place they came to, left in circulation immense quantities: and what is still worse, their own successes in Flanders, and on the Rhine, had the same effect; no town was taken that was not well provided: though depreciated, this currency made good plunder for soldiers, who were hardly at the trouble of plundering in order to procure it. This excessive introduction was probably the reason for the countrymen absolutely refusing to take them. Dans le Belgique, les habitans des campagnes ne veulent pas recevoir d'assignats;

ling of former currency, eighteen-twentieths have disappeared. The monied men have, therefore, lost stock and cash; the want of credit has followed; so, without funds, credit, or cash, and nothing seen in the immense vacuity but assignats, the monied interest of France must flourish marvellously. Is there any thing in this picture that should make the monied interest of England fond of revolutions?

Unite these circumstances with the horrible deficiency of the present year's revenue; the expence they are at in hard cash, for purchasing foreign corn, to prevent their starving; the immense efforts they must make for the next campaign; the growing habit of the people not to pay taxes; and the universal decline of both manufactures and commerce; it must then be apparent to every eye that their gasconading decree of war against the constitu-

d'assignats; ce discredit vient de ce que les emigrés en ont répandu un multitude de faux. Monit. Dec. 14 — They have their own *conventional* forgeries as well as others, for it is a curious circumstance, that the new assignats are issued without being numbered, and consequently may be by *milliards* instead of millions: this has been asserted in the Convention, and yet uncontradicted. Of the same complexion is the fact, that in the Moniteur the National Gazette; the price of the louis d'or in assignats has not been published for some months past, which was always regularly done before.—Debt reported by Chabot, Monit. 3d March, 8,034,898,980 liv.—Interest, 367,844,949 liv.—Arrears of taxes, according to Claviere, 647,827,896 liv.

tions of all their neighbours, is an effort of despair. Should rebellions fail them—should they miss the safety which Paine bespoke for them,—“ when France shall be surrounded with Revolutions, she will be in peace and safety,”—they will find internal ruin of every sort disseminating too fast to be supported:—the people will find themselves in a situation helpless, proportioned to their success; for their paper, on the frontier, is not of half the value it bears in the interior of the kingdom. This is their real source of weakness, and it is absolutely irremediable; nor will the farmers continue to cultivate the ground for more than the physical necessities of their families, if paid only in a currency continually depreciated;—annual famines ensue;—in a word, the seeds of ruin lie scattered so thickly, that the most careless attention must recognize them. The nation, feeling severely that equality means but equal misery, and that the Rights of Man produce only the right to be starved, will revolt, and call in their lawful sovereign as the best and readiest mean of safety.

Paine is fond of running parallels, and so are most men of genius; but he is rarely happy in them:—“ The generality of the people in America,” says he, “ especially the poor, are more able to pay taxes than the generality of people either in France or England.” And he unites with

with this, the "cruelty" of a civil list of a million sterling, which he compares with the civil list of America, which is only 300,000 dollars. One must search many writers with talents, to find one who can compress such multitudes of falsehoods and blunders into the same space with this captain-general of mountebanks.

The ability to pay taxes does not depend on a people being at their ease,—that is, having few or no indigent poor. This assertion will seem a paradox to the ignorant only. That ability depends on the quantity, number, and rapidity of *money exchanges*; in other words, on CONCENTRATED CIRCULATION. The ease, the plenty, and happiness of the people have nothing to do in this business; for give a man a thousand acres of rich land, which produces beef, mutton, pork, wheat, wool, hemp, flax, &c. to profusion; let the family that possesses it, live in the utmost conceivable plenty, there does not result from this outline the capability of paying one shilling of taxes. Even taxes on solid property, like land-taxes, must be paid by *cash in circulation*: land does not pay a land-tax, but *money*. It is not, therefore, the *ease* of the people that enables them to pay, but the *money superfluity* that goes beyond that *ease*. In the consumption of a thousand pound's-worth of products forming the *ease*, the physical "ability," mentioned

mentioned by Paine, what is the taxable amount? Possibly not a penny beyond the consumption of foreign wine, coffee, spices, &c. I used the expression *concentrated circulation*; America, if she wanted heavy taxes, would feel what it means: let a settler in the woods, two hundred miles from a city, sell his hemp or his wool to a store-keeper for money, there is a step in circulation where the state might levy a tax; but in a wild country, it would cost ten times more to levy it, than the tax would be worth. We know what distilleries are in the Highlands of Scotland; the Americans have that tax also, but they can levy it in peopled districts only; nay, there are districts in America, where the land-tax will not pay for the collecting!! It would be easy to pursue these observations to demonstration; and to shew, that the reverse of his proposition is true, and that the people of England and of France (before the Revolution, for nothing since has circulated but blood and rapine) are infinitely more able to pay taxes than those of America, for this plain reason, that they have a circulation infinitely more rapid.

When I consider the boundless wealth of this kingdom; its enormous consumption; its rapid circulation of 40 millions sterling, in gold and silver, and of paper to an infinitely greater amount; its exportation and importation, which, if valued truly

truly, would exceed 50 millions sterling ; the facilities of movement, exchange, transfer, of life, if I may use the expression, arising from the size of our cities, and the mass of our circulation ; I should think it a moderate calculation to say, that, in case of any unforeseen emergency of the state, that called for some great exertion, it would be easier to raise, by taxation, in Great Britain, five pounds a head on the people, than it would be to raise 5s. a head in America : for in taxation, speaking at large of a nation, the quantum *paid* is not so much the object to regard, as the quantum *left* after taxes are paid. Suppose the people of one country pay 20s. a head, and the people of another country 40s. (not very far from the fact of England and France)—what does this prove ? Just nothing. What is left in their pockets after the tax is paid ? There is the inquiry ; and in the Englishman's pocket you would find a purse of guineas and shillings * ; in the Frenchman's, the *maladie de la poche*, vacuity. Perhaps the happiest and most enviable people in America, the *comfortable* freeholder, in the back country, is, of all the men in Europe or America, the one least able to pay taxes. What do I deduce from this ?

* The mass of our taxes is not so great an evil as their inequality ; the burthens paid by a country gentleman, of small estate, are hideous, and leave him, like the Frenchman, with empty pockets.

That

That the comparison of the English civil list of 898,468l. *, amounting to 1s. 7½d. a head, is not at all unreasonable, when compared with the American civil list of 300,000 dollars (66,000), or 5½d. a head. But no comparison can be drawn justly, between a new country that did not form itself and an old one that did, and now pays the expence of forming that new one. Let the American account be charged with the expence of the war of 1756, or one hundred millions, and then compare taxation.

" I see, in America, the generality of people living in a stile of plenty unknown in monarchical countries." Hence the plenty of America, and the poverty of Europe, are derived, the one from the absence, the other from the presence of a king ! What a politician ! A million of square miles, of unoccupied fertile land, which precludes the existence of an indigent poor, is not the cause of this plenty ;—it is entirely arising from the want of *metaphors* in America, *shewn for sixpence or a shilling* !

" The hordes of miserable poor, with which old countries abound, are the consequence of what, in such countries, is called government." Here again he makes government the cause of poverty ;

* Sir John Sinclair's History of the Public Revenue, vol. ii. p. 76⁸
and

and, in a hundred passages, he makes representation its cure ; but, unfortunately for his argument, there are poor, and even slaves, in America ; and no country upon which the sun shines is struck with more poverty than France. Suppose all the taxes under an old government annihilated (which has been pretty much the case in France), would the poor become rich ? Do the *poor* pay the bulk of taxes ? The poor in France now pay *no* taxes ; do they grow rich in consequence ? or are they starved, and driven to destroy their children, rather than trust them to the mercies of representative government ?

THE COMMERCIAL INTEREST of France has been completely laid in the dust. Her colonies, by far the greatest source of her trade, have been totally ruined. Equality and the Rights of Man have, to the sugar of America, been as propitious as to the wheat of France. Assignats struck with a palsy all the imports of the kingdom, and her exports, after the destruction of St. Domingo, were a handful. The horrible convulsions in the great towns, drove the merchants and master-manufacturers, with the remnant of their wealth, into other countries, or sunk them in ruin at home.

We have been told, indeed, with some degree of confidence, that the French fabrics are not at present

present in such a state of depression as some have represented. As I have very late intelligence from that kingdom, and on which I can rely, I may venture to assert with confidence, and I could confirm it, by referring to many representations made to government by the municipalities of the manufacturing towns, that every fabric wrought from foreign materials, such as the whole business of Lyons, and a considerable portion of the woollen fabrics, are in absolute ruin ; the masters and undertakers, bankrupts or fled ; and the workmen begging in the streets, subsisting by charity, or wandering vagabond banditti,—the *brigands*, that infest the country, endeavouring to wring from the peasantry a portion of that bread they are unable fairly to earn ; such is the lot which the new doctrines of equality have produced for Lyons, the second city in France, as well as numerous other places that once were flourishing. The governing party in such towns have nothing to give the people, but the flattery of equal rights ; they starve on equality, till the number in the same desperate situation becomes great enough for their *sacred duty* of insurrection ; then they rise, knock their governors on the head, and are themselves *elected* into their places ; but this cures the evil scarcely for one in a thousand ; the mass remains still poor ; and must necessarily remain so, for such convulsions do not re-establish manufactures :

knocking

knocking brains out does not set looms a going ; nor does the exercise of the pike, in the body of a mayor and his aldermen, bring Italian silk to Lyons, or Spanish wool to Louviers.

In the manufacturing towns which work up native commodities, the misery is not equally great, because there is some employment that stirs ; but let us examine a little more closely the nature of this circulation. I am informed, and common sense will tell one it must be so, that the only motive which induces master manufacturers to continue their business is that of *getting rid of assignats* ; they sold their stock in trade when paper was a better commodity, and accumulating, by degrees, what grew every day worse and worse, alarm incited them to do any thing rather than keep in their possession such a depreciated currency ; dreading the inevitable moment when it would be worth nothing, they feared to keep what a breath might dissipate ; they regarded it as an object of terror, and employed their workmen merely to get rid of what they knew carried a value merely nominal ; and paid readily what they kept insecurely.

There is a passage, in Swift's Drapier's Letters, which accounts fully for gold and silver so absolutely disappearing in France ; I change only *Wood's pence for assignats*.—“ For my own part I

am



am already resolved what to do ; I have a pretty good shop of stuffs and silks, and instead of taking *assignats*, I intend to truck with my neighbours, the butcher, and baker, and brewer, and the rest, goods for goods ; and the little gold and silver I have, I WILL KEEP BY ME LIKE MY HEART'S BLOOD, TILL BETTER TIMES, till I am just ready to starve, and then I will buy *assignats*."

Turn your eyes from France to view the commercial state of England. Contemplate the immense—language cannot swell beyond the magnitude of reality,—the gigantic fabric reared on the industry of this kingdom: throw into one vast amount, the public funds,—the paper circulation of every species,—the gold and silver, whether money or plate,—the manufacturing establishments that have raised new cities, as it were by enchantment,—the capitals invested in roads, canals, and other public works,—the shipping, magazines, and mercantile wealth of a thousand kinds, and spread throughout the globe. How would this enormous total, which, in England, has been nursed to maturity by the fond tenderness of parental protection —how would it support the storm which the Rights of Man have kindled in France ? Mortal would be the blow. To touch on such a supposition is enough; every reader can picture the universal scene of ruin that would blot so fair a canvas.

But

But how has this prodigious capital, rising much above five hundred millions sterling, been formed? BY THE SECURITY WHICH THE BRITISH CONSTITUTION GIVES TO PROPERTY; not by equality, personal representation, Rights of Man, Jacobinism, and the vile theories by which poor profligates, wanting to be rich rogues, become practical robbers. Such were not the paths of the commercial prosperity of Britain!

THE LABOURING INTEREST; the personal interest of the labouring poor has been attacked in an instance, the more remarkable as it was a ground of accusation against the old government. Those who recollect the complaints against it, on account of countrymen being enrolled for the militia, and consequently liable to be called into service, have probably read much, in the public prints, of the number of *volunteers*, which flock from all parts of France to the armies on the frontiers. Until these few days, I was ignorant and foolish enough to believe that these were *really* volunteers; but an English labourer, returning from a farm in France, to which I had sent him, has explained to me the nature of this voluntary service. All the men in the parish, able to serve, were enrolled, and then drew lots to see who should go to form the number demanded; and,

K though

though an Englishman, my informant himself drew. Such is the mode of calling forth VOLUNTEERS, so grossly are we deceived by names, which under a semblance of freedom, cover the severest tyranny that can disgrace a people, and precisely in those articles, which, under the old government, were made the subject of the loudest complaint. When we shall read in future of the eagerness with which citizens fly to the frontiers, *l'empressement avec lequel tous les citoyens volont aux frontiers*, we shall know what it means. May not such wretches ask, “what inducement has the farmer, while following the plough, to lay aside his peaceful pursuits, and go to war with the farmer of another country*?”

At first sight it should appear that a Revolution in England, in favour of principles of equality, would be most favourable to the poor classes, the labouring part of the society,—and yet, perhaps, in fact, being still governed by the experiment of France, there is no class in the state, the great landed possessors alone excepted, to whom it would prove so completely mischievous. There is every reason to have confidence in the honesty, moral feelings, and good intentions of the great mass of our lower and poorer classes, and to be rationally certain, that in case of general confusion, like that

which has ruined France, they would absolutely refuse to become cut throats, blood hounds, and assassins: the mafs in France were honest also, but they were driven like sheep by forward determined wretches, who, getting together in arms, seized on the power which they pretended to assign to the people; plunder followed this, and the great body of the nation found, dreadfully to their cost, that they had only changed masters; but this change, from a king to bands of ruffians, brought with it fruits of sore digestion; money absolutely disappeared; the rich, who formerly gave employment, were hunted down and destroyed like wild beasts; the convulsions of the moment banished the rich merchants and manufacturers; EMPLOYMENT, which converted labour into bread, was dried up with the springs that fed it. Amidst the mockery of pay, if the poor workman cannot eat his assignats he starves—he has but one resource—he dips them in blood;—with pike in hand he attacks the corn destined to satisfy the hunger of others; and the tragedy, so often acted in that miserable kingdom, is again performed, till equality ends, as every where else, in equality of ruin. “The manufacturers make nothing; nothing is bought; commerce is alive only in soldiers. I see nothing in trade but our imprudence and our blood. Nothing will soon be seen in France but misery and paper *.” This

* St. Just. Monit. Dec. 1.

from the mouth of a Jacobin in the Convention !
Can any doubt remain * ?

Nov. 26, at the bar, the deputation from Loire and Eure tell the Convention : *The laws are without energy, and without vigour. The price of bread renders it inaccessible to the poor. MISERY IS AT ITS HEIGHT. If the dearness continues, the greatest misfortunes may be expected.* With troops marching about the country to force the farmers to sell their corn *at half* the current price, and yet that half paid with assignats, nay, who seize it at any price. — “Illegal troops of men, in many departments, seize the corn in the markets, without paying for it †.” “At Louviers 5 or 6000 workmen arose to

* The price of wheat now, in many of the departments, is 4l. 10s. a quarter English ; but as that price is paid in assignats, men not well informed may imagine that the poor being themselves paid in paper, might be proportionably able to buy ; but the reverse is the case ; the paper, while it has raised the price of bread, has destroyed both manufactures and commerce, and is now attacking agriculture itself ; the people are absolutely without employment, and have no more the means to procure an assignat than a louis. This degree of misery is not yet of a year standing, for manufactures were active in some parts of France last spring (1792). The affairs of that kingdom demand an attention that never sleeps, or we are sure to be deceived. The operation of the paper money has been very singular, for, to a certain period, it appeared to be beneficial ; but the line once passed, every thing has been rapidly declining.

† The minister of the Interior to the Convention, Nov. 28.
Moniteur.

force

force the magistrates to go at their head, to seek corn in the granaries of the farmers. Last week, at Passy, they seized all that was in the market, while 600 others spread devastation through the forests *."

The state of the roads (under the old government the envy of Europe) is such as would alone, without other addition, very much impede the transport of corn, and add to the scarcity in many situations. I am informed, by a person who lately travelled across the kingdom, that no repairs whatever have been done for three years past, and that he was informed, on inquiry, in several districts, that the people absolutely refused to contribute either money or labour to mend them. The minister of the interior, Jan. 6, complains to the Convention, that they are in a shocking state of ruin ; *dans un etat de delabrement epouvantable.* In a state of anarchy, the object of roads may be thought small ; but it shews, that in a point where the people themselves are so intimately concerned, government for every purpose of doing good is absolutely at an end, and that it remains for evil only. You abolish tithes, and feudal payments ; the next step is, the people will not pay the land-tax, and then will not repair the roads that are for their own use. Such is the state, and there are

* Monit. Jan. 9.

politicians in England who tell us, all will end well in France, as if it were possible to remedy such evils by new experiments. The absolute and unequivocal restoration of the old government, with terrors in its train, not the beneficence of Louis XVI. seems now to be the only remedy. IT WAS NOT THUS UNDER THE OLD GOVERNMENT; but they were not content. The next day the minister of the interior writes to the Convention, complaining of the Commons of Paris, *in the midst of abundance we are ready to perish with famine.* Such is the fruit of eternal declamation to beat the people. Administration is neglected: it is all a horrible disorder. "Our food," says St. Just, "has disappeared, in proportion as our liberty has extended *." There, in two words, is the evil and the cause. *The people triumph and suffer,* say the Jacobins, in their address to their brother societies, *during four years of misery, and four months of continual outrages †.*

The deputation of the department of Loire and Cher, at the bar of the Convention, Nov. 26, declare an insurrection of 25,000 men, on account of the high price of corn.—They assert, however, that there is corn enough in the country for a year, but the operations of the people, occasion such

* Monit. Dec. 1.

† *Lettres de Robespierre à ses Comettans.* No. 8. p. 386, 387.
distress,

distress, that a poor woman of the parish of l'Hotvital, went three times to the market of Romorentin for corn, but not being able to get it, she went home, and, driven to excess of hunger, she killed her infant, for which she was since hanged*. This surely merits some attention from the labouring poor,—from those classes of society, amongst whom our Jacobin reformers distribute their poison of equality and Rights of Man. These rights have produced delicious fruits in France, where the poor are driven to the gallows for KILLING THEIR OWN CHILDREN, TO PREVENT THEIR DYING OF FAMINE, *with corn enough in the country!!!* “ By means of revolutions,” says Paine, “ civilization will be left to the enjoyment of that abundance, of which it is now deprived.” The abundance produced by revolutions is a text for Frenchmen to preach on. And it is for these rights, for such equality, for this fine system of French philosophy and NEW LIGHTS; this moon-shine of theoretical benefit, that our poor are to give up all their present comforts! To change what Old England gives them, whether good or bad, for *rights* that drive them, by famine, to kill their own children, amidst Jacobin plenty; and then be hanged by that law which would have suffered them to die of hunger! Oh, John Bull! it is not thus that thy government treats wild beasts.—

* Monit. Nov. 27.

Thou mayest be shut up in the tower, John,
but thou wilt not be made to eat thy children !
“ We see every day in the streets, and even at the
doors of the sanctuary of the laws, wretches who
want both bread* and cloathing.”—“ Our situation
is such,” says a member of the Convention, “ that
tyranny will spring with victory and vengeance
from popular commotions ; and if the Rights of
Man shall continue to exist, they will be written
with the blood of the people on the tomb of liberty.
The asylum of our farmers will be violated ; the
hope of future harvests destroyed ; and our nation
become the jest of Europe †.” This city, illustrious,
but miserable, said the mayor of Paris, at the bar
of the Convention, Jan. 3d. Oh ! were the good
citizens to rally, we should see conspirators repulsed
in darkness, as on the 10th of August. Thus calling
for new revolts—for new massacres.—The
Rights of Man are WRITTEN IN THEIR BLOOD !
This the present language of Frenchmen, even in
the National Convention. Here is experience of
what those blest rights are which our English re-
formers are so desirous of establishing in this king-
dom as the best boon of heaven !

To contrast this with the situation of the work-
ing poor, in the manufacturing towns of England,
would be an insult to your understandings. You

* Monit. Dec. 11. Manuel.

† Saint Just. Monit. Dec. 1.

know,

know, and, what is much better, you feel, that industry here meets its reward ; that you are paid in hard cash every Saturday night ; that you have something better, for your Sunday dinner, than an assignat ; that a warm house covers you better than a branch of the tree of liberty ; that a good coat, or stout pair of shoes, would be ill exchanged for a three coloured cockade ; and, lastly, that whatever evil you have to complain of would be very ill remedied by any measures that tended sooner or later to change your beef and pudding for frogs and soup meagre ; your coal fires for the pillaged sticks of a national forest ; your shuttles for a hatchet ; or your haminer for a pike ; and the shillings and guineas of Old England for the paper assignats of Jacobin philosophers.

Before I finish the detail of that unhappy and ruined country, it will not be unamusing to contrast the *regal evils* of France with the *republican cures*.

Land taxes, the *evil* ; — *cure* — seizing the land that paid them.

Feudal quit rents, paid by the estate of the people, the *grievance* ; — *remedy* — seizing the estate itself of the nobility and clergy.

A deficit of fifty-six millions in the revenue, the *misfortune* ; — *covered* — by a new deficit of three hundred millions.

Ten millions of royal paper, the *complaint* ;—
three thousand millions of assignats—the *cure*.

A national debt of 300 millions, the *malady* ;—
one of 9000 millions, the *remedy*.

Marie Antonietta *condemned* for the follies of a
necklace.—Mademoiselle Theroigne *applauded*
for leading prisoners to slaughter.

The arbitrary government of Louis XVI.—
changed—for the despotism of Marat.

Drawing men for the militia, the *cruelty* ;—
forcing them into volunteer corps, the *favour*.

Lawyers and suits, the *misfortune* ;—*cure*—the
summary jurisdiction of the lanthorn.

Twenty-five millions, the expence of one king,
the *burthen* ;—one hundred and fifty millions,
the charge of seven hundred kings, the *ease*.

Seven prisoners in the Bastile, the *grievance* ;—
seven thousand in the municipal dungeons, the *cure*.

Trial by jury, *instituted* ;—and 1200 throats
cut in one night, in trial by pike.

Militia.

In the preceding pages I have said little of innovation: to declare against any measure, because an innovation, is a conduct worthy of children: there are, in every period, most valuable innovations; Mr. Grenville's bill for trying contested elections was an innovation; the *babeas corpus* was an innovation; the House of Commons itself was an innovation. The question now is not general; it is not for or against all innovation; but what the nature of the innovation shall be? There are some unquestionably wanted;—while the spirit of equality is abroad—while all property—while life itself is menaced—can it remain a doubt what those innovations should be? Exists there a man of property stupid enough to question whether the innovations of this period should not be directed to its security? Whether, instead of bringing forward the many-headed monster into clubs of riot*,

* It is scarcely worth a note, to obviate the palpable objection, that clubs have met without riot, and associations assembled without confusion:—so they did once in France, but what did they end in? The moderate well-meaning men instituted some of those clubs, and saw themselves pushed out or trampled down, by new comers, who had nothing of moderation in their views. It will be so in all associations, into which men without property are admitted; they must always be most numerous, and the most violent propositions ever most to their taste: they think that they have nothing to lose—there is the pivot on which such meetings turn, from perhaps original good intentions to ultimate destruction.

and

and associations of confusion—whether instead of nursing a spirit, and cherishing a principle that has laid France in the dust, we ought not to meditate innovations, that shall provide a mound against the billows when they shall flow—a shelter against the storm when the hurricane shall come? The innovation we want, and ought with one voice to call for, is a MILITIA, RANK AND FILE, OF PROPERTY.

Popular tyranny is a catching phrenzy, that will surely spread, if effective measures be not taken in time to prevent it. Every country in Europe depends, in the last resort, on a soldiery taken from the dregs of the people, whose imaginary interest is to join insurgents of whatever complexion. Such a reliance is, to the plainest apprehension, preposterous, and must, in the nature of things, fail in the long run. While danger, too manifest to question, and too formidable to palliate, presents itself on every side, nothing but infatuation can prevent some decisive and efficient measure from being embraced; some system of defence and security to property.

Were such a militia established, property would be secure; and those who possess it might view, with a more calm patience, the attacks, whether insidious or open, of men who, deriving nothing from

from the arts of peace and tranquility, seek public confusion, and to kindle the storm on which to mount by the fall and ruin of others.

After all that can be said, this idea of the division of property is so sweet a medicine to the great mass of mankind, that it will find enthusiastic followers in every country, and no where more than in the ranks of an army; hence the necessity of property securing itself, by being armed in a militia. A regiment of a thousand cavalry in every county of moderate extent, just disciplined enough to obey orders and keep their ranks, might be enrolled and assembled in companies three days in every year, and in regiments once in seven, at a very moderate expence to the public: such an establishment would give certain and permanent security against the mischievous example of France, and the equally mischievous propagation of principles in England, which tend to the same anarchy, civil war, and bloodshed, that has reduced our neighbour to her present desperate situation.

It has been said, that such a militia is impracticable; I will not reason on a case absolutely new, but we may venture to assert, that a law which legalizes and regulates the mode in which all the land proprietors in the kingdom, who do not desire the overthrow of the constitution, under the pretence



pretence of its improvement, may instantly assemble, armed, in troops and regiments, ready to oppose the friends of anarchy; I say that a law which prepares the means of security and *defence*, while the rage of *attack* unites and electrifies the enemies of peace and order, must be good, and may be essential to the salvation of the community. All reference to former militia laws is beside the question—it was not of capital consequence whether executed or not, but the present moment is perilous, the danger is too imminent to be trifled with; while anarchy is at our doors, determined measures can alone preserve us.

Associations.

NEXT to the establishment of such a militia, the present spirit of association amongst the friends of the constitution, is a noble and genuine effort truly worthy of Britons. There is no real friend to his country, that does not rejoice to see this electric stroke of true patriotism spread with vital energy through the empire: it carries confusion to Jacobinism; it gives confidence in a just cause, and security to every generous bosom. Rapidly as the effort has shot, with genial influence through our counties, it could not be expected that the views would be uniformly directed to the same determinate objects. In a little time the scope and meaning

meaning will be well impressed, and then it will doubtless be found necessary to fix on places of rendezvous, to which honest men may resort when the wicked are abroad. The national spirit is at last roused ; it has seen long enough the desperate and abominable associations of those who *do* wish, and did openly demand the overthrow of our excellent constitution, under pretences of Jacobin reformation : we have seen the danger—we have been shocked at the insolent threats of “invincible mobs,” we have sought the right means of safety; with a vigour of defence equal to the malignity of attack, a great nation will prove that she is not to be insulted with impunity. Had such associations existed in France, or any thing tending to them at the early stage of the Revolution, all the horrors that flowed from it might have been prevented ; but the higher orders of society knew not their danger.—Here the case is directly contrary.—We are instructed by their calamitous experience—and of all effective means to be ready to meet a storm, this of association is (next to a militia of property) the most direct.

It may be said with truth, that a moment never yet occurred, which demanded equally the united, firm, and determined assistance—the heart and hand of men, friends of peace, to prevent, while yet it is possible to prevent, the horrors that so lately

lately awaited us. It is a moment that ought to bring political agitation to every besom.—The question concerns not empires, kings, and ministers alone—it comes home to our fortunes, our houses, our families. Will you, by the nerve and vigour of your measures—by the broad basis of universal property, on which you build the associations—by the prudence of the resolutions, and the energy of their execution—will you avoid the miseries of France? Listen not to the insidious pretences of Jacobin reformers—there is no medium in moments like these.—With the example of France in full display, propositions of reform, which in that kingdom produced conflagration and massacre, will, in this, have the effect of putting the nation on its guard against men, who so openly profess a readiness to stake all we enjoy, on the desperate throw of a new Revolution. This is the question that ought to collect the enemies of Jacobinism, and which ought to have a seasonable influence on all the orders of Society, by which they may know and learn that we shall ever rally round the constitution*, uncontaminated by reforms, or the tree of liberty, the true symbol of confusion. The danger has lessened since government has awakened to the nature of the present crisis, and since the admirable spirit of the people has manifested itself, the enemies of

* Mr. Fox's Speech to the Whig Club.—RIDGWAY'S.

the public peace will not dare now to profess those Jacobin tenets, which, till lately, met us in such a multitude of shapes: they will put on the garb of more moderate and more temperate measures—they will now appear merely in the character of reformers—a character more dangerous, perhaps, because more masked and insidious: not less pointed in effect to equality and sedition; for these men know sufficiently, by the great experiment of France, that an equal personal representation of the people would infallibly produce here, as it did there, the absolute ruin of all legal authorities. This character of a reformer ought, therefore, to be an object of as much jealousy and distrust, as that of a professed Jacobin; and the associations spreading so laudably through the kingdom, should be on their guard equally against them and their doctrines. The prosperity of England, as neutral, is an eye sore to the Jacobins, and, as an enemy, an object of terror. The question, then, is the means these cunning leaders are taking to spread the same confusion through this country, that has ruined theirs; most assuredly they will not open shops, and write JACOBIN over the doors—No; they know their business better—they find materials much more to their purpose; they find half their work done to their hands by our Opposition-men, and our *reformers* of the constitution. Seeing that the *result* of the labours of such men

answers exactly their own *views*, they chime in, and cry reform! with a more energetic vociferation than ever they did *a la lanterne* in France. Their views, and this union of the Jacobin destroyers with the English reformers, ought to open the eyes of honest men, and make them, one and all, unite in the firmest associations. Not in faint declarations of loyalty *, that mean any thing

* In great numbers of the associations, there seems to have been a marked attention in drawing up their declarations of loyalty and veneration for the constitution, either to use phrases of equivocal meaning, or that might be palatable to reformers, as if it were a wish to include all descriptions of men, whatever their political sentiments: if such management had been carried a little further, declarations would have been produced, which direct Jacobins would have signed; but the original intention was wrong, and tended strongly to weaken the force and vigour of association. In the rational terror of a perilous moment, when struck with a common sensation of common danger, men fly to association, to secure themselves against the attacks of men already associated to destroy them: at such an instant, what can be so futile, what can be such imbecility, as to seek, by an ill-timed complaisance of candour, so to express their feelings, that associators of a direct contrary complexion, men who professedly seek to change the constitution on French principles (for there has not been a single proposition of reform that is not on those principles), that such men may be induced hypocritically to unite with you? The weakness of such a proceeding is inexcusable. On the contrary, all these declarations ought to have been so framed, as expressly and purposefully to exclude a union with men so dangerous, as those who would not feel a horror at the idea of tampering with the constitution, at such a season as this:—by such an exclusion, it would be found, that, however numerous the reformers were before the

thing or nothing, and will be forgotten in six months, but in the most vigorous opposition to every idea of reform, on principles of giving more power

10th of August, that at present not one man in a thousand would listen, with patience, to hear the word Reform seriously pronounced; nor fail to deprecate the idea, as pregnant with national ruin.

There is one object in associations which has not been thought of, but which would, perhaps, be as useful and effective as any other, and that is, for associators to resolve against dealing with any sort of Jacobin tradesmen: if the atrocity of attempts to alter a constitution, which so effectually protects property, as that of England does, on comparison with any other that Europe sees, be well considered, the supineness of mankind, in giving encouragement to those whose utmost efforts are aimed at its destruction, will surely appear the most marvellous stupidity. Who, acquainted with the complexions of men, in any town in England, does not sometimes hear the wealth of the disaffected made a boast of? If you name the danger of the political principles of certain men to property—you hear it exclaimed, *How?* *Do you consider the wealth of such and such persons?* *Are they not rich?* *Have they not a stake?* Yes; they have a stake; commonly as moveable as their persons, and therefore the readiness with which they hazard public confusion. But whence this boast of property? Because, probably, the landed-men in their vicinity, and the monied-men of other principles, have, with this gross blindness, which I at present allude to, been for years in the habit of assisting such disaffected republican Jacobin reformers, to accumulate that wealth which is now ready to be employed to their own destruction: they have been paying their incomes into the hands of men who are ready to convert the interest they make upon it to the establishment of a Convention in England, to consist of brother citizens of equality; to subscribe money, food, cloaths, and arms for the assassins and regicides of France, to enable them, by success at

power to the people :—Here lies our danger in the present moment ; it is not the rank Jacobin, with bare and bloody arms, pike in hand, and ready for your throat ; it is his gentleman usher, your modest reformer, who, meaning a great deal, asks a little, and knows how to make that little much. But be not so cajoled—resist ALL CHANGES in that constitution, which gives you the means of wealth, and protects you in the enjoyment. Come to resolutions declaratory of the abhorrence of changes ; and of every proposition for them that does not originate in the legislature ; and petition parliament to render illegal all meetings and clubs, whose object is to make experiments on British happiness ; to discover rights better than those of an Englishman ; to change your laws, religion, and government ; and give you, in lieu of them, the NEW LIGHTS OF FRENCH PHILOSOPHY.

If any man doubts whether I have reason for these assertions, let him consider the addresses that have been presented to the National Convention

home, to subdue *the vices of the British constitution by a radical reform.* This supine inattention, which turns a man's money to his own destruction, is highly reprehensible. Let those who are real friends to the constitution, expend their income with men whose principles are known—and not become, unthinkingly, promoters of sedition, and encouragers of republicanism. Go amongst sectaries of various denominations, political and religious, and examine if the individuals are not attentive to this point.

of France, from societies of reformers in England ; here follow a few extracts :

The Friends of the People and Constitutional Society of Newington*, thus address the Convention :—*It is with the most profound sensibility that we behold the success of your arms, in your undertaking to deliver from slavery and deception, the brave nations which border your frontiers : how holy is the humanity which prompts you to break their chains.*

Signed, J. F. SKIPPER.
F. PEACOCK.

The Revolution Society of London.—*Above all we rejoice in the Revolution of the 10th of August, so necessary to secure to you the advantages which the former had taught you to expect. We feel an agreeable sensation, that the right of insurrection has been so successfully exercised.*

Signed, J. TOWERS.
— COOPER.

The Friends of Liberty and Equality at Belfast.—*For the glory of humanity, may your declaration of rights be every where put in practice.*

* Legacies left by the late Dr. Price, for the good of his country ;—perhaps, the worst citizen, speaking politically, that has lived in it of late years ; but there are doubtless nobles that can boast of his friendship.

The volunteers of Belfast.—*The successes of the French secure liberty to the neighbouring nations* *.

The united societies of London.—*An oppressed part of mankind, forgetting their own evils, are sensible only of yours; and beholding the present events, with a disturbed eye, address their most fervent prayers to the God of the universe, that he may be favourable to your cause, with which theirs is so intimately connected.* Degraded by an oppressive system of inquisition, the invincible, but continual encroachments of which quickly deprived the nation of its boasted liberty, and reduced it almost to that abject state of slavery from which you have so gloriously emancipated yourselves. FIVE THOUSAND English citizens, fired with indignation, have the courage to step forward to rescue their country from that opprobrium which has been thrown upon it by the base conduct of those who are invested with power. Frenchmen, our number will appear very small, when compared with the rest of the nation; but know, that it increases every day; and if the terrible and con-

* That is, French bayonets are to reform the Irish constitution. They doubtless recollect the expressions of their correspondent Mr. Wyvill: *A happier scene is just ready to open upon Ireland.—The vigour of the Irish people—substantial reformation—RADICAL reformation—let them be firm—the volunteers will COMMAND success.* (*Collection of Letters. 4to. York. p. 24.*) The tendency of these scattered expressions were well understood by these Irishmen, as it is plain from the fruit already produced,

sinually elevated arm of authority overawes the timid,—if falsehoods, every moment dispersed with so much industry, mislead the credulous,—and if the public intimacy of the court with Frenchmen, avowed traitors to their country, hurry away the ambitious and unthinking, we can, with confidence, assure you, Freemen and Friends, that knowledge makes a rapid progress among us. You are already free, but Britons are preparing to be so.

Signed, M. MARGAROT.
T. HARDY.

Constitutional Society of London.—Innumerable societies of the same sort are forming in every part of England. After the example given by France, Revolutions will become easy; reason is about to make a rapid progress, and it would not be extraordinary if, in a much less space of time than can be imagined, the French should send addresses of congratulation to a National Convention of England.—Other nations will soon follow your steps in this career of improvement; and, rising from their lethargy, will arm themselves for the purpose of claiming the Rights of Man.

Signed, SEMPILL.
D. ADAMS.
JOEL BARLOW.
J. FROST*.

* Presented the 28th of November; and therefore approbation direct of the 2d of September.

The President's answer was a real declaration of war against this kingdom.—*The shades of Penn, of Hampden, and of Sydney, hover over your heads; and the moment, without doubt, approaches, in which the French will bring congratulations to the National Convention of Great Britain.*

Of the same complexion was the declaration, December 15th, of the Convention.—That it will treat as enemies, the people who, refusing or renouncing liberty and equality, are desirous of preserving their prince and privileged castes, or of entering into an accommodation with them.

Let those men (not Jacobins) who condemn the war, or who think it might have been avoided, seriously consider these extracts of the direct communication of English republicans with French cut throats. Can any person, not absolutely bereft of reason, conceive it possible that such men, thus machinating the destruction of our constitution, could continue their connection with the French Convention, which peace gave a boundless power of doing, without our running the most imminent hazard of every thing that government and law secure to us—that is to say, life and property.

The “Proceedings of the Association of the Friends of the Constitution.” Dublin. The Duke of Leinster !!

ster!! in the chair," is a publication that deserves notice; because it proves, too clearly to be doubted, that our dangers are not at an end. Jacobinism hardly sleeps, in spite of all our associations; the enemies of law and of order never relax their efforts; Ireland is their favourite ground; and should these new principles of equality, the new French "lights," be there established, it will not be long before they are raging in our own vitals. These "friends" call on the people to "SUBDUE the corruption," "the infamy," "the foulest acts under the foulest names," which form the "regular system of government," by "a RADICAL REFORM;" by a body of "representatives, an integral and essential part of the constitution, derived from the people by GENERAL election." —The English language could scarcely, in an equal number of words, paint in stronger terms, the fire-brands of sedition. To call on the people not to crave, or pray, or petition, but to SUBDUE the errors of government,—to SUBDUE them by a RADICAL reform, and GENERAL representation, is, in other words, to demand a Convention, the King at Tyburn, the Lords annihilated, and property the reward of new Robespierres, Brissots, and Marats. But these expressions are too remarkable to be accidental; they coincide too exactly with the threats of the Jacobins in France, to allow us, for one moment, to believe that there is not a clear intelligence and union between them.

The minister of the marine, to the friends of liberty and equality in the maritime cities : “ Will the ENGLISH REPUBLICANS SUFFER the King and his Parliament to make war ? Already these free men testify their discontent and their repugnance to carry arms against their French brothers. Well ; we will fly to THEIR ASSISTANCE ; we will invade that isle, and send 50,000 caps of liberty to plant the SACRED TREE, and to offer our open arms to OUR REPUBLICAN BROTHERS, to PURIFY English liberty, and REFORM the vices of the government.” Here the Jacobins threaten to purify our liberty, *in conjunction with English republicans, and to reform our vices with 50,000 bayonets.* What is this but to subdue us by a radical reform !!! If any doubt could remain of the tendency of the operations of our reformers, surely such declarations are sufficient to remove them. To open our eyes to the horrible situation we should be in, if our legislature were absurd enough to listen to such incendiaries ; or weak enough not to take effective measures to controul their treasonable practices. This is the glorious conquest of reform, gained by the Irish people over the British ministry *. Our Jacobin reformers never speak of liberty, but it suggests ideas of conquest on one hand, and of subjection on the other. We are to be CONQUERED by reform, and SUBDUED to equality !

* Declaration of the Friends of the Liberty of the Press, p. 14.

It has been said, even in Parliament, since government was sufficiently alarmed to call out the militia, and put the nation on her guard, that the King's Ministers ought to be impeached for their conduct. Can any one doubt whether the men who sent these infamous deputations, and the men who composed them, would not avow directly the same opinion? But let the people at large know, by these abominable facts, the unquestionable reality of their danger. Let them here discover—their intellects must be weak indeed, if they cannot discover, in this deputation, what those men mean who drink equal liberty to all mankind—**NATIONAL CONVENTIONS** **EQUALLY** **EVERY WHERE !!** is the sentiment of their bosoms, and would have been sung about the streets, had government slept six weeks longer. Who can read without horror the following Address to the Volunteer Corps of Ireland, from an Irish society of the same complexion, so lately as Dec. 20. “Citizen soldiers to arms. When your country has been declared in danger, we conjure you by your glory to stand to your arms, and in spite of a police, in spite of a fencible militia, to maintain good order: it is only by military array that you can obtain the speedy resurrection of liberty and equality.” Here is abundant proof that we are far distant from entire safety; and that the least relaxation in that associated preparation, which

which is now our only salvation, would give new animation to these societies of desperate men with desperate views ; to these enemies of government, of order, and of property. *Had Dumourier, says Robespierre, March 10, entered Holland three months ago, as he demanded, the Revolution would, by this time, have been made in England.* Yet have we men on the benches of Parliament who assert, that all our dangers were imaginary. The Jacobin leaders know better, and declare it.

Our enemies never rest,—in peace they celebrated the victories of France; now they view, with horror, the probable successes of England—with crocodile lamentations, and an affectation of regret, they can whine over the mischiefs they have spent their lives in generating; can come forward, in the moment of hostility, in the true garb of the republican Price, strenuous to exhilarate the national foe, and to depress the national energy, by representing that war as *odious and detestable* which the PEOPLE OF ENGLAND hail as *JUST AND NECESSARY*; brooding over the distempers of a jaundiced imagination; stirring up, Medea like, the cauldron of their own incantations, *popular effervescence,—the fermenting spirit of discontent,—tendency to violent change,—the annihilation of the constitution, by inveterate abuses,—an abused*

abused people, sick of the war of Kings *. — What essential difference is there between this mummery of discontent, and the red hot Maratism of the miscreant Society who tells us, they *wish only the restoration of the lost liberties of their country* † ?

While the spirit of the people is alert and animated with due zeal in defence of their lives and properties, both may be safe: but this exertion is not likely to be durable; and should that languor and indolence, the children of a foolish security, once more slacken the tension which results from the present impression, the courage of our enemies will revive; and those execrable societies, whose aim is plunder, and the means confusion, will resume the same pernicious activity in mischief that has effected the ruin of France, and had brought England almost to the brink of the same precipice down which her neighbour has been hurled. To guard against a neglect so fatal, becomes the first and greatest duty of government. It is firmness, energy, and vigour, against our domestic foes that can alone preserve the constitution uncontaminated by Jacobin reform; moderation, lenity, and the mild virtues of one man, have deluged France in blood; such are not weapons

* Letter to the Rt. Hon. William Pitt.

† Address of the London Corresponding Society to the other Societies of Great Britain, p. 7. Signed Margarot and Hardy.

with which to combat in an hour like this: while the lamp-post, or the pike, is the imprimatur on the press in France; while suspicion fills the prisons, and massacre is the gaol delivery—if the legislature of England does not take effective precautions, but trusts too much to private efforts, we may, in the event, amidst confusion and terror, have reason to regret a want of policy, which an example so pregnant ought to have inspired.

A great lawyer says, that on the subject of associations, *the statutes and precedents of law are silent*; but that they are *doubtful in law, unconstitutional in principle, and wholly unnecessary**. To declare at the opening of his speech, that the associations were unnecessary, was completely begging the only material question between him the orator, and the people of England, who thought and felt them to be necessary:—He treats the subject in the direct line of legal inquiry, never for a moment as a politician, the only fair light to view a question in, upon which *law and precedent* are silent.

What then is the pivot upon which the question turns? Most clearly the political necessity. The kingdom swarmed with Jacobin and republican associations, in direct correspondence with the National Convention, for the avowed purpose of es-

* *Declaration of the Friends of the Liberty of the Press*, p. 4.
establishing

tablishing liberty, equality, and a Covention in England: astonished at the daring attempt, and the rapidity with which the mischief spread, government stood aghast with horror—but where law and precedent were silent (I thank the gentleman for an admission, which completely defeats his argument)—it became ministers to be silent also. With the crown thus constitutionally inactive, the people saw their danger; they felt a great state necessity;—by association destruction was coming with gigantic strides—and by association they repelled it. Were the constitution, the freedom, the property of England to be swept away in a whirlwind of republicanism, while lawyers conned the *analogies of accusation**, and the *anomalies of justice*†? No:—a better spirit animated the bosoms of Englishmen; and all that is calm in the present security of good men—all that is venomous in the disappointment of bad ones—proves that the step was political, just, and necessary.

What is the great objection? That the associations subscribed money for bringing the publishers of libellous and seditious writings to justice—admitting, on comparison, at the same time, the propriety of similar associations against swindlers and poachers, because they are bottomed on crimes which are injurious to individuals as such. It

* P. 4.

† P. 6.

seems

seems very whimsical to approve of associating for avenging a crime, which must in its nature be practised on an individual, and for whose protection the law is in daily practice fully competent to protect him; but wrong to associate for the punishment of a crime *not* levelled at an individual, but at *society in the mass*, and for the punishment of which the law is NOT in the practice either of punishing or preventing. In other words, that men should associate for cases to which they are individually competent; and that they should not associate for cases to which they can be competent by means of association only. They should associate to transport a swindler, or fine a poacher, because those crimes are in the habit of being duly punished; but they should not associate against libels on the constitution, and calls to sedition, because these are in the habit of being distributed without punishment !

But while associations, with subscriptions for punishing libels, are thus branded, by our eloquent lawyer, as unconstitutional; associations, with subscriptions for *promoting the liberty of the press*, are declared to be perfectly constitutional *. The former are mischievous, because a court of justice might be *infected by a general prejudice* †. But may it not be asked, if such a court could not

* P. 21.

† P. 7.

be

be equally infected by the prejudices of a Jacobin association? And if, when subjects persecute one another by combination, they may not combine for their common defence*? To PROMOTE the liberty of the press! Such an object is really curious at this time of day! The press is not free enough; it is too modest, and timid, and blushing, and wants to be encouraged, and countenanced, and protected: the eloquent lawyer is kind enough to take this coy virgin by the hand, and persuade her to assume a proper assurance on coming into company. *We will, says he, maintain and assert the right of the people to point out the defects and corruptions of the constitution* †; the press has not been free enough in doing this, and it therefore wants the assistance of this egregious association *to promote its liberty*. Strip the object of the garb which legal cunning and eloquent sophistry know so well how to arrange, and the plain unvarnished proposition it proper only to be laughed at; and, without any doubt, has been the butt of private ridicule among these wits who assemble in public in all the dignity of rueful visage. There is indeed reason why they should range with knights of the woeful countenance, they are not yet honoured with THOSE STATIONS OF EMINENCY ‡, which their leader on

* P. 11.

† P. 9.

‡ P. 14.—The meeting understood the expression in its palpable meaning, as I do, and commented on it accordingly.

that day, by a lapse of the tongue, promised them as their due. The expression was remarkable, and shewed, with sufficient clearness, that there are views, certainly better and more worthy views, than opening a shop for constitutional corruptions, and for impunity in the dispensation of Jacobin remedies—for bringing into play the *divine energy of Englishmen*, in opposition to the forms of the constitution*, that they may have *virtue to practise* † the doctrines which associations regard as seditious:—for a lawyer of great eminence in his profession to quit the field of legal enquiry for so bold a recommendation as this, is coming very near indeed to the *practical doctrine of the pike and the lanthorn*; in perfect analogy with the *glorious conquests* ‡ of Irish Jacobins, *subduing the vices of our constitution with the divine energy of a radical reform.*

All Jacobins are well acquainted with the importance of the press; and hence the assiduity with which the English ones assemble in associations for preserving its liberty, and the earnestness with which they publish and disperse their *declarations*. They cannot perform the one or the other more strenuously than their brethren did in France, till they found a rising disposition to employ their favourite engine in defence of legal government. But from that moment where was its liberty to be

* P. 16.

† P. 8.

‡ P. 14. found?

found? And in like manner we may safely rest assured, that should our government be overthrown in favour of a Jacobin Convention, these men who now roar for the freedom of the press, would break the tools, burn the houses, and hang the printers that worked for any party but their own. This is one among the innumerable points on which the French Revolution has set the seal of experiment.

The question is, does the freedom of the press—or ought that freedom to extend—to an unlimited permission, for the pen of every man who wishes public confusion, to vilify, abuse, and bring into contempt, with ignorant people, that glorious constitution, which is the inheritance and the pride of Britons? *The Friends of the Liberty of the Press*, in their inflammatory speech, which they heard with tribunitial applause, and dispersed with Jacobin industry, assert their right to publish *the corruptions of the constitution*, in other words, *to write it down*. It is at issue between that constitution and the people whom it renders happy on one side, and those gentlemen on the other, whether they have this right or not. The licentiousness we complain of, is not of old standing; it was unknown, except in its just punishment before the present reign; and I will never acknowledge among the benefits of a period, in which liberty has been constantly progressive, this relaxation of that constitutional

rein, which government, in every preceding period, held with a commendable firmness for the good of society, order, and peace. To whose indolence and timidity such a gross evil is to be attributed I know not, but if we would preserve our constitution from Jacobin *improvements*, it must be corrected with vigour, and the sooner the business is done, so much the more salutary will be the cure. Government ought to be ready to prosecute; to punish, rests with juries, who will doubtless feel the duty and importance of stopping a pestilence, which threatens the annihilation of all constitutional authority.

To return—neither government nor the public ought to be driven from their purpose by the answer not uncommonly heard, which accuses the associators of going to the contrary extreme, and endangering the liberty of the people by professions of loyalty; this accusation may be considered as the last effort of disappointed sedition: the men who feel, with the deepest chagrin, the security such associations give to the constitution, as at present established, have nothing left during the vigour now exerted, but to retort accusations—and to tell us, that we mean, or act as if we meant, to render the King absolute: but such assertions scarcely merit attention: those men, if there are such, who wished before to change our government

ment to a despotism, certainly wish it now; but that associations directly declaring a determination to maintain the constitution *as it is*—free as it is now—mean really an intention to overturn it, is too preposterous to be credited—and worthy of the reforming quarter only, from which it proceeds.

But neither a militia, association, nor any other measure to be devised would yield security, were the licentiousness (not the liberty) of the press to be permitted to so shameful and destructive a length, as we have of late years experienced in England. It will probably be found, after this period, that no constitution, whether good or bad, can possibly exist against a licentious press. The old government of France was ruined unquestionably by inattention to this engine: the new tyranny established there is well aware of that momentous truth, and hath accordingly converted it, like the lanthorn, into an engine of government. Where the licentiousness of the press is in any degree allowed, the general instruction of the lower classes must become the seed of revolt; and it is for this reason that the friends of reform, and zealous admirers of French equality, are strenuous for Sunday and charity schools.

The gentlemen who consider Paine *as a conspicuous friend of mankind, and an admirable writer**,

* Mr. Cooper's Reply to Mr. Burke's Invective, p. 75.

would have a system of National education established, in which every person may become informed what are the *rights of a citizen**; what *privileges* they are *deprived of*†; and how to bring *capabilities into action*, by a glorious career of improvement. The French have been wonderfully well instructed in all this; they have indeed brought their capabilities into action; they have not been wanting in *leisure, unremittingly employed*, or in *best endeavours exerted to hasten*‡ *improvement*. Since associations are found to distribute treason and sedition, to teach the exertion of capabilities, and to point out the glorious career of France as an object of imitation for England—the poison thus expanded, does not render the vehicle more respectable. I do not find on my farm, in the village, or its vicinity, that those are the best ploughmen and carters who are the deepest adepts in the Rights of Man. If there must be hewers of wood and drawers of water, why preach equality? Will not French horrors tell us, that to teach, is to bewilder; that to enlighten, is to destroy?

* P. 75.

+ P. 76.

‡ Mr. Cooper says of the approach of the Revolution he looks for in England, the *dawn of a glorious day* (p. 12.): “my leisure shall be unremittingly employed, and my best endeavours exerted to hasten its approach.” p. 77. Doubtless well prepared for the business by his conversations with Mademoiselle Theroigne, of whom he says, “I have seldom met with views more enlarged, more just, more truly patriotic.”

Bur,

But, contrary to all this, with a press regulated for the benefit of society, and not vomiting forth poison for its destruction, the lower classes cannot well be injured by instruction : what a duty then devolves on government, to guard against abuses, the neglect of which may be attended with danger, and even ruin to the whole community * ?

I feel but one great objection that may probably be made to the general conclusions I have drawn from the example of France : it may be said that

* There are so many respectable persons, who are friends to sunday-schools, that I know the opinion I have ventured will give offence ; but, on mature consideration, I see no reason to change it. There would be no question, if the Bible, or books of morality and devotion only, came into the hands of the poor :—in such a case, every one who means well must be of the same opinion ; but will you educate the poor, in order that they may study *Rights of Man*? or the seditious tracts of so many of our modern reformers? Will reading the *Soldier's Friend* improve the ranks of your army? When you examine the question respecting the utility of these schools, is the mischievous industry and zeal considered, with which our republicans print, distribute, and give away cheap editions of their *institutes* of discontent, confusion, and treason? Are the friends of these seminaries clear, that of the 150,000 copies of Paine, which are said to be in circulation (thanks to the horrible supineness of administration), that there are not many thousands in the hands of those who read him in consequence of a charitable education? I will not assert as a fact, what I have received only as general information, that the sectaries of this kingdom, whose tenets are the most hostile to our government, as at present established, have been amongst the most active and zealous friends to sunday-schools :—if this is true, it does not make me the more favourable to them.

my reasoning goes too far, because, if just, a nation however enslaved, and however miserable, should submit to all evils, rather than attempt the greater evil of a Revolution. The argument is common, and, dissected by reasoning, would lead on both sides into a discussion that would here be misplaced. But reasoning is endless, and facts are few; one motive, were there no other, for preferring them.

In the former revolutions of the modern world, whether in Sweden, Switzerland, Portugal, Holland, or England, the people soon settled into a form of government nearly resembling that which they had enjoyed before the troubles; they never dreamed of making new experiments *on principle*. Even in the case of America the fact holds true in almost every instance; for there is not now in the world a constitution so near the British as that of the United States; I think, *since the events in France*, that it is inferior, for the plain reason of not providing so well against the danger now most to be apprehended, *popular power*: the despotism of a monarch was every where the object of rational apprehension; it is so no longer: a worse monster has shewn itself in the world, that carries a venom in its fangs more *rabid* than the canine. In all former revolutions, therefore, the people reasoned in argument, and felt in fact, that whatever

ever might be the event of the struggle, it could scarcely place them in a worse situation ; and this with exception only to America. Experiment therefore justified the nations which felt themselves oppressed, in the attempts they made to effect a revolution.

Reverse the medal, and let us ask how this great question stands at present : the principles of equality* and Rights of Man are afloat, and an *experimentum crucis* tells us, that a nation, though under a very bad government, may change for one a thousand times worse. This great and disastrous event will give men, let their rank be what it may —the honest workman equally with the prince—a horror at the idea of revolutions ; will teach men rather to bear the ills they have, than fly to others that they know not of ; and consequently has done more against the cause of that real and safe liberty, which was gradually pervading the world, than any other event in the power of mischief to effect. A reflection that ought to make us loathe a Jacobin, with the same detestation as noxious animals of hideous deformity.

Take the worst of the German military governments, and compare the situation of the people, in any point whatever, and it may be asserted truly, that they are in a happier and better situation

tion than the French, under the anarchy given them by the Rights of Man : to answer that this anarchy may subside, and produce a good government at last, is so completely beside the question, reasoning on facts, that I am astonished to hear it so often recurred to ; the experiment of the new government, in France, was complete—it was finished—decreed and accepted—It is farsical to suppose that Louis XVI. had more power to sap or destroy it than any other King : if it could not go on with him, it could not go on at all, and therefore was rotten at heart. It had made a thousand provisions against a disarmed king, but had made none against an armed mob : this mob broke into the sanctuary and kicked the constitution out of doors. Massacres followed, till no man felt his head more safe on his shoulders than the subjects of Achen or Algiers ; and, as to property, it was given to the winds : where are the subjects of a German despot whose situation matches this ? And as to the *hope* of seeing something better ; the hope of the German is more likely to be realized than that of the Frenchman, who has nothing in perspective but new evils, and new revolutions to cure them. A German, therefore, would be wise to renounce the thoughts of liberty, rather than pursue the idea of it through a revolution similar to that of France. Time and a happy coincidence of events may give them such an opportunity

tunity as France, worse than lost. They have her example to instruct them.

The plain conclusion to be drawn is this; nations should proceed as individuals; rely only on experimented cases. When philosophers advised the French to seek some system of freedom better than experiment (*Great Britain*) offered, they advised a trust in theory; and at this moment, when Jacobins and reformists advise us to *improve* our constitution, is it not a question directly in point to ask them, whether the experimented freedom we enjoy at present, ought to be hazarded on projects of theory? An unequal representation, rotten boroughs, long parliaments, extravagant courts, selfish ministers, and corrupt majorities, are so intimately interwoven with our practical freedom, that it would require better political anatomists than our modern reformers, to shew, on fact, that we did not owe our liberty to the identical evils which they want to expunge. In France none of these are to be found, a representation equal, no burgage tenures, biennial parliaments, no court, ministers of straw, and majorities corrupted only by themselves; but with these envied blessings is France free?—Here is an equal representation of the people—an experiment complete—and the result “heavenly” in the eyes of English reformers; but not so in the mouths even
of

of Jacobins in the Convention—THEY tell you that it is anarchy, bloodshed, and famine. “ The abolition of formal government brings society closer together,” is one of Paine’s mountebank maxims ; his theories should always be brought to the test of French practice; this compression, this contact of society, is there well understood ; it is the pike of one man in the belly of another. And lest you should misunderstand what he means, he says,—“ The Revolution of France has thrown a beam of light over the world, which reaches *into* man.” It is not the beams of light *illuminating* man ; or *surrounding* him ; or *guiding* him ;—but it goes *INTO* him ; plump into his body ; in the language of the streets, *day-light is let into him*. Is this so very encouraging as to induce an imitation in England ? Such things, however, are not sufficient to satisfy those who demand a reform ; no slight reason for supposing they look further—and that, through the obscure of such a foreground, there is a prospect behind, bright enough to fix attention, and allure hope—the prospect of copying in England the example of France ; the regal, noble, ecclesiastical, national properties, the spoil of *equal citizens!*

There is, in Mons. Mounier’s last admirable performance, an observation which merits great attention ; that when once a kingdom possesses a free assembly,

assembly, with the power of the purse, the real apprehension is not for liberty, but for the existence of the crown. And again, "in England the number of representatives of the people is very unequally divided: simple boroughs, which contain few inhabitants, have, from custom, the right of deputing; while districts, very populous, do not participate in elections. This irregularity appears contrary to many incontestible principles; but it could not be rectified without augmenting the force of the democratical part of the government, without danger of breaking the equilibrium, which has been so well preserved for a century; and if ever they consent to render the representation more equal, it would be indispensable to strengthen the other two branches. Inequality of representation, above all, produces this advantage; that a great part of the people *identify* themselves much less with the deputies of the commons, and the public opinion is less corrupted by the passions that may agitate the lower house*." There is deep sense in this remark: the author, who is one of the best of men, and most honest of politicians, who was a leader in the constituent assembly, and marked, with great acumen, their errors, felt the truth he here delineates, and saw the overthrow of their constitution in the eagerness with which

* Recherches sur les Causes qui ont empêché les Francois de devenir Libres, 1792, tom. ii. p. 272.

the people, incorporated as it were, with the deputies, till those without talents became as corrupt as those whose only talent was corrupting the hearts of others. What fact, what experiment, do our reformers pretend to, on which to ground the certainty, that if those apparent defects of the constitution were removed, the power of the people, without property, would not, in consequence, gain enough—to enable them to gain more—and to advance, by means of those steps,—till they gained *all*? The case of the French Revolution is much stronger in the affirmative than any other to be produced in the negative; but to speak of cases is absurd, with the reformers, for they proceed absolutely on theory and Rights of Man; those well adapted foundations for a republic in Bedlam.

It appears to me, that there would be a singular propriety in the associations which are at present spreading through the kingdom, petitioning parliament to pass an act to declare all clubs, associations, societies, and meetings of men, that assemble for the purpose of obtaining changes in the constitution, illegal, and that no meeting can legally correspond, either in their own name, or in the names of their secretary, or other officer, with any foreign body or government, unless such meeting is sanctioned by charter. The friends of order

order and good government are now collected; the time is precious, and ought not to be lost; and while we are threatened with the horrors of anarchy, it behoves us to have as much activity and energy in our defence as the violators of all human rights have exerted in their attack: for men to tell us, in such a moment as this, and situated as we are with the enemy of mankind, on one side, and the torch of revolt lighting in Ireland on another side—that they are not Jacobins, but moderate men, wishing *reform*, is as impudent as it would be for a thief to say, that he is not an assassin, because he only holds a candle while another cuts my throat.

That governments cannot be improved, and that legislation should be the only science to stand still, by no means follow: experiment proscribes only great changes; small and gradual advances, in times of serenity; such advances as put nothing to hazard, must be good. It is easy to lay the finger on grievances in England, which every honest and moderate man would wish removed; but it is not when much is demanded, that little should be given; for the plain reason, that the little will not THEN satisfy.

I shall not be suspected of thinking tithes a light grievance; but they are a grievance that would be
ill

ill remedied by the loss of the crop that pays them ; the enormity of the taxes I pay is known to every man that reads the tracts I publish ; heavy as they are, let them remain rather than be changed for a *contribution fonciere* ; the little left me is my own, which might not be the case under the sure dispensations of Jacobin equality. Evils certainly exist in our system, and they are such as will, I trust, be remedied, gradually, by the legislature, acting from its own impulse ; and not from the influence of clubs and reforming societies.

It was an old observation, that a republic could subsist on the trappings of a monarchy. The French have set the seal of experience here, as in every other case, and have shewn, that citizen Robespierre, and citizen Rolland, can out do *Emperor Joseph* and *King George* in extravagance ; the most enormous expences, that ever any nation was deluged with, are the present in France ; a single month's DEFICIENCY is 176 millions, or 7,700,000l. Sterling ; this is spending at the rate of 90 millions a year. Paine says, " It is cruel to think of a million a year to a king ; " but it is not a breakfast to an assembly of citizens. There is a great deal in the civil list of England that does not concern *trappings*. The payment, for the support of those trappings, do not probably amount to six-pence a head upon the population of Great Britain,

tain, for which sixpence every man has the support of a chief constable, that keeps all the other constables to their duty. Instead of sixpence a head paid for tranquility, the French now pay five shillings a head for keeping a gang of cut throats, and an assembly of mad dogs. A splendid imperial court might be supported out of something worse than trappings of the French republic.

Monarchy, says Paine, is a silly contemptible thing, I compare it to something kept behind a curtain, about which there is a great deal of bustle and fuss, and a wonderful air of seeming solemnity; but when, by any accident, the curtain happens to be open, and the company see what it is, they burst into laughter. He has since, in the character of a legislator, had rueful occasions of witnessing, that representation can exhibit scenes more burlesque, and to the full as laughable, as any in monarchy; and that the legislators of the Convention, determining priority of speaking by boxing (a kick for a trope, a black-eye for a metaphor, and the descent from the tribune that of being tumbled or hurled upon the benches), to the shouts, clappings, and hissings of the galleries, have upon a thousand occasions presented spectacles admirably adapted for moving the risible faculties of spectators; not forgetting the nickname of our Thetford staymaker—the

punchinello of the Convention. “ This tribune,” says Danton, “ is become an amphitheatre for gladiators *.”

If France should ever again possess the precious moment of improving her government without convulsions, which opportunity she had, and lost; or if any other great country, having an indigent poor, should meet such a moment—experiment speaks to them but one language.—**TAKE THE BRITISH CONSTITUTION**, not because it is theoretically the best, but because it is practically good; but take special care not to mistake that constitution, and give the poison of personal representation; for, in such an error, your import of British liberty would become the establishment of French anarchy.

The conclusion may be compressed in a few lines: the danger of the moment is great indeed; and only to be guarded against by the most unremitting diligence and activity:—exert that diligence, and bring that activity into play by an unanimous support of the administration, entrusted at present with the public safety: the question is not, whether you are a friend or an enemy of that administration; you are certainly a friend to the lives and properties of mankind. Join in associ-

* April 11.

ations

ations for our defence, against banditti, cut throats, and Jacobins ; join against an enemy more subtle, and therefore more dangerous, the friends of reform ; the associators who would plant the tree of equal liberty ; the mountebanks who have a French nostrum, and Birmingham daggers, for the diseases of our English constitution. Guard against such miscreant attempts by pointed resolutions ; and call, with one voice, on the legislature to suppress, by vigorous and decisive laws, the clubs of sedition ; the associations that call themselves our "constitutional" instructors and our "friends ;" whose lessons are institutes of anarchy ; and whose friendship,—should their tenets prevail,—would cement with our best blood, that National Convention of Britain with which those societies have so lately threatened us *.

Question

* I know not how other men feel at reading the registers of meetings of *Jacobins, reformers, friends of the constitution, friends of the liberty of the press*—but to me they appear half farcical, half disgusting ; a strange jumble of speeches, and drinking, and singing ; one is doubtful whether the proper retribution would be to consider them as traitors, and send them to the Tower ; as madmen, and convey them to bedlam ; or as disturbers of the peace, and sweep them all to the round-house. There is no government upon earth, or that ever existed in the world, this alone excepted, that would permit assemblies, the professed purport of which is to pull it in pieces ; whose object is to declare their own discontent, and to render the people as unhappy as themselves. To consider the epithets they give one another, and the toasts they drink, *

Question of a War.

EVERY reflecting man must, on conviction, derived from long experience, be an enemy to war; and must be of opinion, that that system of policy ought, at this time, as well as at all other periods, to be embraced, which promises us the longest duration of peace, for the fifty next years to come.

bye-stander would suppose the kingdom had been for some time in a state of utter ruin—and that the liberties of the people were rendered the sport of tyrants—He would imagine that the press had been under an *imprimatur*, but removed by the zeal of an individual: that the people owed all their *rights* to another member: that all *representation* in parliament hung on the lips of a third: and that the property of England would be at the mercy of *excises*, were it not for the exertion of a fourth. And, attending to the speeches delivered, he would find, to his surprize, that the people of England did not owe their happiness to their government, but were *cajoled* into prosperity: that they were *victims*, viewing with envy the glorious conquests of Irish reformers. Such a bye-stander, not well informed of facts, would certainly conclude, that Englishmen were more miserable than any nation on the globe, and particularly than Frenchmen. Speculative arrangements of state offices are sometimes amusing—let us suppose one of these orators a secretary, another a secretary's secretary, another a treasurer of the navy, a fourth paymaster, a fifth secretary at war, and a sixth attorney general: what, in such a case, would at once become of all this ruin? Where, alas! would be found the rights of the press, the rights of the people, the rights of representation, the rights of no excise? A magic wand is waved over the island, and evils fly off like the evaporation of an ethereal mist—the atmosphere clears—the sun shines. This is not supposition, or theory; it is **FACT**, deduced from a thousand **EXPERIMENTS**—It is *history, experience, and man.*

This

This ought to be the only rule of a statesman; and if, by avoiding hostilities with these new destroyers of mankind at present, we had any chance of preserving peace, my weak voice should urge our ministers to guard it with the most sedulous precautions; but if, on the contrary, preserving peace at present be only whetting the swords, storing the magazines, and disseminating the principles, which are by and by to be employed against us, with tenfold effect; and, above all other points, planting and nourishing those principles among us by every insidious art; if such should be the consequences of peace at present, it must be sufficiently apparent to every reasonable man, that on the long account, every year of war, at this crisis, will probably secure ten years of peace in its train; and consequently, that the policy of permanent peace is, of all others, that which most clearly calls for temporary war.

Such a coincidence of circumstances, as produces this singular situation, has very rarely happened. In almost all the former wars, in which this kingdom has been engaged since the revolution, our government, or the opposition to government, has looked at its own interests only, and but seldom at those of the nation. The war of 1744, was a war absolutely without an object, and brought on by the opposition in parliament, raising a cla-

mour against Sir Robert Walpole. The war of 1756, was a commercial war, for the preservation of colonies. The American war was to retain those colonies in obedience ; a war, partly of commerce, partly of government, and partly popular. But, on true political principles, all those three wars, to which we owe nearly the whole of our national debt, were ill-judged, and ought to have been avoided : the attainment of the object in view was not worth an hundredth part of the expence, much less the *chance* of attaining that object. If the object before us now were of no greater magnitude, God forbid than any honest man should have pleaded for hostilities ! Had the French contented themselves with the domestic arrangements of their own government, what would have been our concern in their transactions ? None. Nothing either in policy or pretence. Whether their edifice were philosophical, atheistical, or metaphysical ;—whether their parliament assembled in one or two houses ; whether they pursued the rights or wrongs of Man, all were the same to us : and accordingly our government, greatly to its honour, was a mere spectator, not an indifferent spectator ; but rather friendly than otherwise. But when the new Revolution, of the 10th of August, brought other principles into play ;—when the republicans, who then mounted aloft in the storm of their own raising, proclaimed principles

ples directly offensive to the government of every country around them—and, in effect, declared war against them, in the famous decree of support to all rebels who wished for French freedom*;—when these hostile declarations were found to spring from the victories that attended their arms;—when they were accompanied with the most busy, impudent, and intrusive interference in the parties and discontents of these kingdoms, and that in a tone and manner equally insidious and dangerous: when all these circumstances combined to fill our government with the utmost alarm, what condemnation would have been adequate to its demerit, had it acted on any other plan than what it has pursued? It is not a question, whether there should be a war or not; but, whether a war in 1793 or in 1796? War with an enemy powerfully attacked by others? or with the same enemy after she have conquered others? Shall it be war in St. Domingo and Martinique, or in Ireland and Sussex?

Those who have attempted to persuade us, that we are in danger in this war, from the strength and vigour of *republican* France, have their motives for such an opinion; but, according to all the ap-

* The Convention declares, in the name of the French nation, that it will grant assistance to all people who wish to recover their liberty, and charges the executive power with giving the necessary orders to the generals for giving succour to such people. Nov. 19, ordered to be printed in all languages.

pearances on which human foresight can build, the idea has little of justice for its support. The dangers that threaten at present, are those that threaten France ; they have orators, it is true, who persuade them, that they are invincible, but when you examine the circumstances of the force relied on, they must make any reasonable man smile.—
Does the pay of our troops require money ? Our harvests and our vintages, our raw materials and manufactures ; will they be less abundant, because a crown of six livres is worth more or less than a crown in assignats ? Frenchmen will be fed, cloathed, lodged, warmed, armed, and encamped so long as they have a fertile soil ; and our territory is very much increased since the beginning of the war.—Cloots, February 5.

Such are the marvellous politicks of the orator of the *sans culottes*; for nothing rich enough to wear breeches merits the epithet *human*, in the classification of this system of natural rights. This speech, received with applause, shews sufficiently, what are the hopes and resources of the Convention. They have extremely rich land in Auvergne, and therefore they will fight very well in Flanders ! The banks of the Garonne yield great crops of hemp, consequently their fleets will be effective friends to Tippo Saib. Money is necessary to Kings, but republicans know how to do without it ! The very first

first lines, the first rudiments of political science, are all erased in such ideas: this orator, the powers of whose mind go no further than giving fluency to nonsense, speaks in common with many other members of their pandémónium, of all France *rising* and marching to the frontiers. I do not conceive it possible that any person, in this enlightened country, can be so ignorant as to be deceived by such stuff: one or two observations, however, will not be thrown away, rather that the principles of natural force may be better understood, than for the confutation of the Prussian orator.

Guiding myself by their own authorities, I may state their extra resources, from the regal and ecclesiastical plunder, at four *milliards*, that is 175,000,000. sterling: their last accounts state the value of the possessions of 70,000 emigrants at 4,800,000,000 liv.: here, therefore, are at least eight *milliards*, or 350,000,000. sterling, in Cloots' solid real wealth; the wealth of rich land and fertile crops; they have had besides, if you will believe them, an annual revenue of 600,000,000 liv. above 25,000,000. sterling. Now what has been the result of all this? They have coined paper to the amount of 3000,000,000 liv. (131,000,000. sterling); and, after all, they have, within these few days, coined 800,000,000 liv. more of paper; about

about 36,000,000l. sterling *!!! Thus proving a direct negative to all this egregious politician's doctrine. No government that ever existed in the world, came into the possession, or rather into the plunder, of such solid wealth; and yet it is of so little consequence, that they are now driven, after a single, and that a triumphant campaign, to the

* "The taxes in France, under the new constitution," says Paine, "are not quite 13s. a head." There never was one syllable of truth in this, even at the time he wrote. The fair account of their taxes is thus to be calculated; the sums actually raised, and the discount on the assignats,—deducting the arrears stated by Claviere, from four years taxation, the remainder will be about 1,400,000,000 livres—60 per cent. on 3,800,000,000 livres is 2,280,000,000 livres—in all 3,680,000,000 livres—which divide by 4, and the result is 920 millions—40,250,000l. sterling per annum; or about 34s. 6d. a head, extorted from a people without trade, manufactures, or industry; instead of less than 20s. a head, paid under the old government, with every branch of industry animated and flourishing! In how short a space of time can a representative government convert the calculations of this great politician into a refutation of every one of his arguments! What monarchy is "up to this?" My estimate cannot be exact, but it is probably under the fact, as will appear, by comparing the debt, as stated by Chabot in one period, and by Necker in another. The moment is not arrived, to allow us to reckon the whole of assignats as a tax: it seems, however, fast advancing, for the course of exchange with England is* at 9 $\frac{1}{2}$, having sunk for three months past, nearly in the ratio Mr. Playfair foretold; and the creation of 1200 millions more, lately † ordered to be issued, will, without doubt, continue the depression, and speedily involve their government in inextricable confusion.

* May 21, 1793.

† In May, 1793.

extremities

extremities of adding 800 to 3000,000,000 of paper! paper! paper!!! "It would be impossible, on the rational system of representative government, to make out a bill of expences to such an enormous amount as the deception of monarchy admits," is the assertion of the great politician Mr. Paine, who now has hourly means of receiving the conviction of his own falsehoods, and of seeing, in common with all Europe, that no monarchy, which ever existed on the globe, ever made out such a *bill* as that "concentration of knowledge in a state of constant maturity *," the representative tyranny of France. With the rich land and abundant harvests of three-fourths of France in their power, they are so poor, so ragged, and so hungry, that half the registers of their assembly is occupied with cries for raiment, demands for food, complaints of famine; a nation without bread, and armies without breeches.

"Representative government," says Paine, "possesses a perpetual stamina, as well of body as of mind." The error here is small, the perpetual stamina is of paper. "It exists not by fraud *." No, gentle reader, it is mere honour, faith, and honesty to heap the paper Pelion on the paper Ossa; and, when at 60 per cent. discount, to decree *death* as the punishment of doubling its

paper value. This is representative purity, that “admits not a separation between knowledge and power *,” but runs “parallel with the order and immutable laws of nature *.”

Such are the facts;—they (a noble Lord in England is of the same opinion) were too ignorant to know, that such would inevitably be the result;—and this orator of the *human race* continues ignorant, in spite of all their experience. He might, however, have known, that rich land and the wealth which, in home consumption, may be called solid and real, cannot be brought into effect in a war at a distance, but by means of a circulating specie of such credit, as to command commodities. Assignats, before a livre of this 800,000,000 is circulated, have created a famine, and raised the price of wheat to 50 liv. the sack, or 100 liv. the quarter (4l. 7s. 6d.); the new issue will increase this scarcity, and throw a proportionable impediment in the way of every operation of government. Great discontents, and even insurrections, have been frequent in various parts of the kingdom; what will be the consequence of adding, in successive campaigns, to this enormous amount of circulating mischief,—of injecting into all the veins and arteries of the political body, not blood but poison? The value of rich land, of harvests,

and vintages, will soon be found, when the silver wings which ought to convey them, with vital efficacy, to the frontiers, become paper at 100 per cent. discount. It is taxes paid in specie, or in something as good as specie, that enables the public to avail itself of private wealth. If eight milliards of *real* wealth leave them beggars, for want of MONEY, the experiment is surely complete and finished, for all except *convention* politicians !

" While Mr. Burke," says Paine, " has been talking about the bankruptcy of France, the National Assembly has been paying off the capital of its debt." Not a word has either Mr. Burke or Mr. Pitt said this session on the French finances. The subject begins to be too well understood, and imposition will serve no longer.—" The finances of the new government will place France in a situation worthy the imitation of Europe." The author of the hodge-podge called Rights of Man, says, in the same passage, that Mr. Burke talks like a dreamer of dreams. What are these visions, Mr. Paine, if they are not dreams? The elevated mind of France* has proceeded with the same mightiness of reason* in finances, as in every other branch of administration—reform and re-generation the theory—paper, poverty, and bankruptcy the practice.

* Paine.

The object of the war being a durable peace, attained by the destruction of a combination of reformers, who, not content with operating on the basis of their own country, proclaim *improvement* and hostility against all their neighbours—such being the great object, the principle of self-defence, which instigates the war—it is but of secondary moment what the immediate event of our military operations may prove. Our prospect however has nothing to alarm: the state of the French West Indies is such, that a British fleet has only to appear and meet the greeting of friends. The Rights of Man and Equality have proved too ruinous to be listened to after the flag of real freedom appears in those seas; this is the expectation in the Convention itself; and their recompence is the idea of giving freedom to Peru!

If there is truth in the representation I have given of our danger—if the field of that danger is at home—and if in this war with France we have to fight, not through ambition or for conquest, but for the preservation of our lives and properties against foreign and domestic foes, combined for our destruction; it then surely behoves every man that wishes well to his country, to give firmness and vigour to that government by which alone we can hope for defence and security; by as great unanimity as our enemies will admit,—by rejecting

ing, reprobating, and holding up to abhorrence, every idea of altering, reforming, or tampering, at so dangerous a crisis, with the constitution to which we owe the prosperity that is so hateful an object to the Jacobins of France; by exerting ourselves, every man in his individual and collective capacity, with all vigour, to promote the views of government in an energetic conduct of the war, by which alone we can hope for a continuance of those blessings which belong to us as Britons. The public conduct which this kingdom at present holds, promotes the dearest interests of the people, and ought to render it popular and respected. Success under God depends on the people bearing the burthens, which the necessity of war may impose on them, with patience and chearfulness; convinced as they must be, that the war is not only just, but absolutely and essentially necessary to the salvation of all that makes life desirable; the peace of families,—the surety of dwellings,—the safety of life,—the security of property:—they will consider its expence as the sacrifice of a little, for the preservation of the whole.

I am old enough to remember distinctly the whole course of the war of 1756; to have reflected on the events of that, and of the American war; and though I felt as an Englishman ought to feel for the honour of his country's arms, yet the events made



made no deep impression on my mind,—nothing personal created the least anxiety in my bosom. In the present contest there is none of this want of interest—the rapid conquests of the French, in the last campaign, filled me with apprehension and gloom; I saw, with horror, the elevated crests of our own Jacobins—I marked the meditated mischief, and felt, that all for which I wished to live had received a shock. The late events, which gave hope of a turning tide, revived my spirits;—my house became more my castle,—I viewed my farm as more my own,—I began to feel the soil firmer under my feet,—and that the sun of British freedom might yet shine with beams unblotted by deeds of horror. What were victories in Hesse, or defeats in America, to the personal feelings of a farmer in Suffolk? alike to him or conquest or defeat.—Not so in this contest, eventful to every human feeling,—that comes *home to men's business and bosoms*; in which defeat will rob him of his patrimony, his friends, his life, his children; convert his country to his gaol, and raise the hand he may have supported to acts of plunder and of death. He who does not feel his property more secure, and the lives of his family more safe, in consequence of every success gained against that band of cut throat wretches, that usurp the government of France,—has a bosom touched by vibrations in no unison with mine. It is a war of humanity

humanity against the ravagers and destroyers of the earth; and the period of it might have given one the horrible prospect of seeing men, (the members even of this prosperous and happy society, tempted by vile ambition, or instigated by the poverty of profligacy,—marking power as the offspring of confusion, and plunder the reward of anarchy)—of seeing such men repining at victories that fill every honest bosom with joy, and glorying in defeats disastrous to the cause of humanity. The victories of this war tend to preserve liberty on the firm basis of the British constitution; property on law; and life in the pure dispensations of unsuspected justice.. But to what tends defeat? Let the French system establish itself, and there sets the sun of England's liberty,—there flies, as before a pestilence, all that renders life sweet, or property desirable:—plunder, rapine, blood, succeed.

Petition of the Jacobin Society, called Friends of the People, praying a Reform.

THIS petition, which fills a pamphlet, and was fabricated by the same persons who hatched the other *libels*, also called petitions,—refers, in its first line, to the *spirit* of the constitution; lest the House, or the reader should mistake the intention which produced and pervades the whole performance, that of abusing and vilifying the constitution, *as it is*, in favour of what it ideally *ought to be*, in the *opinion and theory* of the petitioners.

They set out farther, with asserting, that “the wisdom of our ancestors contrived to render the constitution beneficial to the security and happiness of the people,”—thus referring to what the constitution has been in former times; *contrived by wisdom and happy in its result*. They finish many of their paragraphs with, “and this your petitioners are ready to prove;”—why did they, with so much solicitude, tack those words (a mere parody on Paine’s *is not this a good thing?*) to every period where the assertion is so futile, that, whether it be true or false, is not of the least consequence, but omit it wherever a bold assertion, of some leading fact, is pushed forward, on which to found the main buttresses of their argument? When

When they assert the wisdom, security, and happiness of former periods, and deny them all in the present period, why not add here also, *and this your petitioners are ready to prove?* Because a mischievous and deceptive cunning is a constituent ingredient in Jacobinism; these men know and feel that they could prove no such thing. They will cover your table with proofs, that thirty-five places, by burgage tenure, send seventy members; but not an iota of proof do they offer to support their assertion, that that constitution which is now "a grievance," was once "pure." What frivolous childish trifling is this!—It is like talking theory in a debate of two days and then dividing 40 members, who ought all, if their arguments were good, to represent counties; instead of which there were but six county "friends" among them!!!

But "grievances!"—These petitioners are hardy enough to urge grievances; and when they are asked for their grievances, they produce the constitution! There is the only grievance they name. Instead of bringing forward real grievances, which they would do if they could find them*, they de-
scribe

* Of which a notable instance occurred, in a formal accusation brought forward in parliamentary form, against his Majesty's ministers, for keeping the suspected domestics of Egalité—and the noted Dr. Maxwell some hours on board a packet, as contrary to

scribe the constitution ; they are “ jealous of whatever appears to vitiate its purity.” But where are your “ grievances ? ” None are to be found.

It is scarcely possible to believe, that men of talents could exert themselves so much to produce this artful petition, in which they allude perpetually to grievances, and not see, while they were fabricating it, what bugbears they were dressing up to catch the eye of the ignorant, and to serve the purpose of *that* which they, in vain, endeavoured to find. The *national debt!* certainly an evil ; but Mr. Fox, in the speech printed with this petition *, expressly says, that that evil has not been owing to a defective representation ; and he says truly. What next ? *Bribery and corruption at elections.* This is perfectly droll : these friends of the people come forward as their champions ; and the plea is, that the people are bribed and

law and constitution. What a panegyric on this glorious country ! that men tremblingly alive, and responsive to the faintest and almost imperceptible vibrations of discontent—of evil, could it be found ;—upon the hunt—beating for their game, can find none—and are forced to confess, that they can find none, by pouching flies and maybugs for their quarry.

* I read the petition in the pamphlet printed by Debret,—*Speeches of Pitt and Fox ; to which is annexed, &c.* 8vo. “ In some of the petitions on the table, the accumulation of the public debt was imputed to the defect of the representation, and he was sorry to see such an absurdity in them.” P. 54.

corrupt !!

corrupt!! Indeed? And you petition the House of Commons to cure it! By what means? By multiplying voters amongst men who now complain of their own corruption; because the corruption of "fifteen thousand" voters is an evil, give us the corruption of 60,000! Such is the reasoning of the people's friends.—Well; proceed with your grievances. *The expence of contested elections tried by committees of the House of Commons.*

This is the most curious article of the whole, and shews the composition of those men, who come forward as *friends* of the people. An impartial committee, chosen by ballot, giving forty days attendance to a trial, is stated as a grievance!! I remember being in the gallery to hear a debate on Mr. Grenville's bill, when General Burgoyne used the remarkable expression (alluding to the former method of determining contested elections)—*would you, Hottentot-like, return to your guts and garbage?*—These friends of the people are lovers of the "purity of constitution enjoyed by our ancestors;"—the guts and garbage of former times. But the constitution might be so framed, so altered, so improved, so restored to original purity, that contested elections could not be tried. I have no doubt of it: we see it just so in France; no committee of the Convention has yet

fat to try a contested election. The contest is previously decided by the pike; and the "elective franchise" is so valuable and so free, that of 150,000 voters in one city, 9000 only appear at the hustings: were the 141,000 others to offer to poll, it must be in battle array, or their vote would be their death warrant. Here then is great simplicity of election, and no expence, and no election committees, and no "wrangling of lawyers;" nothing of all this;—but there are things which you have not named,—the pike, the axe, and the halter; three engines of wonderful efficacy in purifying elections.

Such is the list of modern "grievances."—There ends the budget of evils: all the rest of the petition is made up of a description of the constitution: places elect where the voters do not exceed 50—where they do not exceed 100—where they did not exceed 200—and so on; all which the "petitioners are ready to prove." The only circumstance that demands a moment's attention, is their representing these facts of the constitution as grievances. They have no real ones to complain of, and therefore make the constitution itself a grievance—this is but a hash of Tom Paine, who said we had no constitution; and that the bill of rights was a bill of wrongs. These men knew that they must attempt, in some way or other, to

shew,

shew, that the present mode of election is an evil, on comparison with preceding times; and as doing this fairly and honestly is utterly impossible, they recur perpetually to the "principles" and "spirit" of the constitution, which they are cunning enough to know admits of torturing at pleasure. They make no distinction between a government, and the principles of that government; which is, neither more nor less, than nonsense. But nonsense, when flowing from sedition, is not apt to be without a meaning;—and here the meaning evidently is, to sink the constitution, and raise its principles.—We know what the former is, but who knows what reformers would substitute for it, under the name of principles? These gentlemen never seem to see an object clearly, but when they have involved it in a mist; they conjure up the principles of the government, and confound them with the government itself, in order that the unwary may not know one from the other; may not be able to distinguish the constitution, from the monster they would palm upon us for it. In the same spirit they assert, that public happiness depends on the "third estate being created by, representing, and responsible to, the people themselves;" a passage containing as many errors as words; for it is to be remembered, that by the expression *the people*, these reformers mean always the whole mass of the people: the House of

Commons was not created by the people, but by the crown ; never did represent the people in any period of our history ; and is not responsible to the people. What wretched stuff are these eternal assertions, without fact, without support, without proof ; yet do these petitioners presume to say, that they lay before the House, “ not general speculations, deduced from theoretical opinions, but positive truths, susceptible of direct proofs.” Bravo ! To the same factious purpose they go on ;—“ Your honourable House is not an adequate representation of the people ; and therefore contrary to the spirit of the constitution.” An *adequate representation* ! What is an *adequate representation* ? Do they offer to state what that means ? No. Do they shew the inadequacy, by the weight and number of grievances they quote ? To what should the representation be adequate, if not to the “ security” and to the “ happiness of the people ? ” Do they shew the unhappiness of the people ? Their poverty and distress, compared with other nations ; in their employment, wealth, comforts, their dwellings, cloaths, and food ? Do they shew the insecurity of the people ? The oppressions by the Crown, or its ministers, the danger from the military, deficient justice, or corrupt judges ? Nothing of all this. If the House of Commons, then, is adequate to the happiness of the people, it is adequate to the spirit of the constitution ; and changing

changing it for a much-envied and eagerly wished-for convention, would not be a cure for the evils of the people, whatever gratification it might prove for the ambition of their demagogues.

But further ;—“ The present complicated rights of voting,” the “ caprice,” “ obscurity,” “ confusion,” “ intricate qualifications,” “ strange distinctions,” “ are regulated by no uniform principle of voting.” When were they regulated by a uniform principle? In what period of “ purity” was such uniformity to be found? Never? — No—not for a single moment. Why then ask it at present? Because in theory a constitution might be better than that of Britain. Very good this! The people of England are to give up that order of things, which has established national happiness as the inheritance of a great nation, in exchange for the theory of forty FRIENDS! — Fill up that blank with an epithet adequate to the — modesty — of such a proposal.

They go on and tell the House, that the want of such uniformity has “ deprived the people of all participation in that privilege, the free exercise of which affords the only security they can possess for the protection of their liberties and properties.” — This is expressly declaring, that every man who has not a vote is a slave; this is the doctrine which makes



makes one million one hundred and eighty thousand slaves in this kingdom: he who wants the *only security* that can render liberty and property safe, has no liberty or property but at the pleasure of others, *i. e.* he is a political slave. This passage merits great attention, as a commentary on those speeches from the opposition benches, in which *personal representation* was declared to be an absurd idea. Here personal representation, by universal suffrage, is demanded expressly; for if they assert, that their liberty and property are in secure, if they have not personal representation, they most effectively demand such representation. When, therefore, Mr. Fox, in his speech of that day said, that only one of the petitions demanded universal suffrage; he meant such an assertion as a pleasantry, but could not be serious; the fact is, they every one demanded it, in words as strong in their import as if they had expressly named it. The Friends of the People can therefore hold one doctrine in speaking, and another in penning petitions. It is good at least to know this, that the consistency of those should be understood who urge the inconsistency of others.

A Right Honourable gentleman, who supported the petitions, is reported to have said, in his speech on that day, "it had been said that French principles were fascinating. Would any man now say

say that French principles were fascinating? What then had we to fear from what no man in his senses would wish to copy?"—Turn over a few pages of the same speech, and you meet with the following words, which I suppose were meant as a comment on the text of that passage. "It was said, that a House of Commons, so chosen as to be a complete representative of the people, would be too powerful for the House of Lords, and even for the King, they would abolish the one, and dismiss the other. If the King and the House of Lords were unnecessary, and useless branches of the constitution, let them be dismissed and abolished, for the people were not made for them, but they for the people." Those who were present on that day know whether such words were spoken or not—I take it for granted they were not—and that no man in the first classes of society, who has filled the first offices of the State, and expects again to fill them, would talk such language: I have no doubt but the Right Honourable member is misrepresented in the publications which give, under his name, the sentiments, not of a British legislator, but of a French Jacobin; of a Convention incendiary; one of the shameful consequences of allowing the speeches of the members to be published. However, whether such words were or were not spoken, they are printed and dispersed; and I consider them not as the opinions of a great and respectable

spectable senator—for that is impossible—but as sentiments I find in a pamphlet, belonging no matter to whom; and examining them with this view, I may remark, that the latter passage is a complete answer to the first; for French principles must be very fascinating indeed to allow such declarations to be made in a British House of Commons: these *are* French principles; they are principles that would not have had existence in this age had republican horrors been unknown in France; they are sentiments borrowed from the tribune of the Convention, generated in French bosoms, and translated from French expressions. Can it be needful to point out the tendency of such language? It is not a question whether in the last resort, in the expiring struggles of civil anarchy and confusion, there be truth in such opinions, the truth of the sentiment (supposing for a moment that there were truth in it*) is the last inquiry; but

* Those who assert, that the king and nobility of England were made for the people, do not seem to have any just recollection of THAT which *made* the people of England: such has been the fostering and parental tenderness of this government, that the constitution of England, formed by the Crown and the nobility, may, with great truth, be said to have produced *the people*. Beyond all hesitation, the Crown and the nobility made the constitution; and the people, properly so called, never thoroughly interfered, on their own account, but to destroy it; the case, in 1640, when *their* operations produced what they are always sure to do, first anarchy, and then despotism. The Crown and *the*

but to speak so lightly of events, which could not take place but in the midst of horrors, of carnage, and universal ruin : to talk of the abolition and dismission of two branches of a legislature, that is known in the establishment of felicity only ; in the diffusion of prosperous freedom alone, is in the same spirit as that which scatters firebrands and poison, careless alike of property and life. *For the good of the people, abolish the Lords, and dismiss the King !* Why, this is the identical theory and practice of France ! It is the pernicious jargon that has spread devastation and blood from Calais to Marseilles. With the kingdom swarming with Jacobin societies, less noisy, but not less numerous than before the war, is this a moment to familiarize

the barons laid the foundation of *that* which, at the Revolution, was, by the nobility, matured into the present constitution ; by making that constitution, they made all the constitution has generated ; that is, wealth, felicity, the people, the nation. By making liberty, they made Englishmen—Nursed their infancy, established their manhood. By converting enslaved villains into a free peasantry, by giving the blessings of a good government, they gradually produced a great, a happy, and a free nation ; a nation SO free, that it now sees, in the licentiousness of liberty, members in its family (or vipers in its bosom) ready to turn against the hand that fed them, and to repay, with a mortal sting, the maternal warmth that nourished them. What then can be so preposterous, as to assert, that the crown and the nobility were made for those who were created by their influence, who were fashioned by their hands ? What gross absurdity, to start such questions at all ? to bring into speculation inquiries so futile, as whether a father is made for the benefit of his son ; or the son for that of the father.

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the ears and minds of the people with changes of this dreadful import—to lessen the horror felt by mankind at the idea of such convulsions ; to connect the good of the people, even in imagination, with such desperate theories ? While men, even great men, can speak such language, or not speaking it, can allow it to pass under their names, is this a moment for asking whether French principles fascinate any longer ? Yes, in truth, they *do* fascinate ; they thrive ; they spread ; they grow with fresh vigour ; they renovate in vernal profusion.

The same men who speak so lightly of abolishing the Lords, and dismissing the King, *for the good of the people*, tell us also, that the war is mischievous, and peace the only policy ; they represent the danger from French principles, and French power, to be at an end, and that our ministers ought to make peace. The insidious art and mischievous design with which that opinion is now attempted to be propagated amongst the people ; the duplicity with which every evil in the kingdom is attributed to the war, down to the commercial failures of men who, on the credit of thousands, were speculating on borrowed millions, ruined alike whether in peace or in war, and insolvent before a gun was fired, marks the REAL danger of the present moment.

What was the object of the war? Let this point be ascertained clearly in every rational mind, for it is the polar star that can alone guide us through the confusion of arguments with which Jacobin oratory entangles the question for the deception of the people. That object was the preservation of the British constitution against the attacks—avowed or concealed—open or insidious—by cannon in Flanders, or by Jacobin clubs in England—of French principles. Every friend of his country saw to conviction, that if the French system, the French republic, established itself on *principles and declarations of Rights of Man*, equally applicable to all mankind, that every government but their own was in the most imminent danger; their impudent declaration of assistance to all the rebels of the world was but reducing inevitable consequences to the form of a declaration; the conduct, the result flowed of necessity from their system, and the danger to their neighbours sprung from the establishment of a mob government in France, whose interest led them to the destruction of every other government.

What then is the question of war and peace? Is the end answered for which hostilities were commenced? Is France so arranged, by the defeat of Dumourier, as to give security to her neighbours? Nothing less. The republicans, Jacobins, and regicides,

regicides, are in power as much at this moment as when we began the war ; and to suffer such a gang of banditti and cut throats to establish themselves the masters of such an empire, is as dangerous to every country around, as it would be to my flock of sheep to allow a breed of wolves to settle and propagate in one of my woods. The object of the war is to establish such a government in France as shall be consistent with the safety of her neighbours. Is that effected ?

But our Jacobins, all to a man, abhor the war, and cry for peace—they are consistent in so doing—their sagacity is unquestionable—they know that a peace would tend to establish the republic of France—and that is the first and surest step to a republic in England ; thus the inducement of our reformers to call for peace is identically the motive, with every real friend of his country, to persist in continuing the war.

But while our Jacobins are consequent to their own principles in the cry of peace, their cunning quits them when they cover the table of the House of Commons with petitions for reform and personal representation ; and yet, in the same breath, tell us that our danger is over, and that French principles fascinate no longer : those petitions are the

the clearest proof that our danger, so far from being over, is great as ever; since these petitions are the spawn of those principles, and while a republic exists in France, to which English republicans can look for support, that danger, in its full extent, will continue fresh and alarming: what greater reason can be given for continuing the war with vigour? *Give us peace, abolish the Lords, and dismiss the King.* Without doubt those demands are rightly coupled; for what receipt so surely to produce the abolition of all but Jacobin anarchy, as to have peace, intercourse, and fraternization with the regicides of France! With whom treat? Power, in that wretched country, changes hands as quickly as human depravity can bring forward villains of a blacker dye than their predecessors. What security has Marat, and his gang, for their power, except that of being truer blood-hounds than Petion, and his crew? And let a darker band arise than Marat's, and where would be his authority? The terms of a treaty would be kept or broken at their pleasure; inviolate in their distress, but trampled under their feet, should success again attend their arms, against enemies not so easily duped as England.

In this critical and dangerous crisis of the fate of Europe, every man that does not wish to see a republic established in England, must be, on all

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the principles of self-defence, a friend to the war; and a determined enemy to those propositions that tend to leave a republic established in France—for the simplest of all reasons, because such a government, fixed on the principles upon which alone it can now be fixed, is absolutely inconsistent with the existence of any regular government among its neighbours; it is the establishment of eternal hostility against all real liberty, and consequently against that of Britain. The insidious peace which English Jacobins now pant for, would lead, with infallible steps, to a future war, a thousand times more terrible, and that could end with nothing but utter destruction and conquest; or the immediate establishment of a republic, founded on personal representation, equality, and Rights of Man; in other words, on anarchy raging in the vitals of the kingdom:

Our stocks may be low—our manufactures distressed—our commerce impeded—and our gazettes filled with bankruptcies, instead of victories; the charged picture of our situation shall be accepted from the Jacobin benches; but what would all these be, were we to listen to their crafty calls, and, by making peace with the regicides of France, establish the Rights of Man, that is, the laws of anarchy, within the sight of our coast; fraternize with those who desire nothing better than

than to fraternize with us ; and who, but the other day, fraternized us to the very brink of a revolution. Where then would be our stocks, our manufactures, and our commerce ? What would be the employment of our gazettes ? Would paragraphs, that gave us the register of Citizen Fox, Citizen Grey, and Citizen Sheridan at the tribune, the London municipalities at the bar, and a mob, with pikes, in the lobby, demanding the trial of the King—would these pay us for the change ? Low stocks, and a checked industry, are *bad* things—but is a Jacobin government a *good* one ? Gazettes of bankruptcies are bad also—but would such gazettes as these be better ? Let us, then, regard the calls to peace, that come from Jacobins, with the contempt they merit : we understand them well ; our “friends” must thicken the flimsy veil with which they attempt to hide their views—their aim is seen—their intention known. We know what is *covered* by the expressions “a war of kings and despots,” and the “blessings of peace,” that would be restored by “a pure parliament.” .

“ If there was ever any danger to this country, from the propagation of French principles, or from the increased dominion of France, that danger, unquestionably, is completely at an end.” “ Involved in a most RUINOUS WAR, the whole

commercial credit of the nation is shaken; and we have sunk, from the zenith of our prosperity, into the most NECESSITOUS and DISTRESSED SITUATION. In this CALAMITOUS STATE, with respect to credit at home, and war abroad, nothing could tend so much to deliver the country from these DREADFUL EVILS, as to have a pure and uncorrupted House of Commons, emanating freely and fairly from the people *." This hideous caricature of our situation, is found in a speech ushering into the House the petition of the people's "friends," and referring to and defending its tenets; that is, universal suffrage. Thus the honourable member manifestly holds out to us personal representation,—to which several added, in the same debate, "short parliaments,"—as the cure for these "dreadful evils," that result from our government presuming to defend the British constitution against the attacks of French Jacobins. Such a "pure" parliament would soon put an end to this "ruinous war."—How? By making an immediate peace with the regicides, and acknowledging the republic of France. This is what we are thus told a "pure" parliament would give us. The gentleman knows that such a parliament, so chosen and so sitting, would give us all this instantly; and I believe that the honourable gentleman also knows, that it would give us abundantly MORE. It would ease us of

* Mr. Grey's Speech. *Star*, May 7, 1793.

the “ruinous war of kings,” for it would soon ease us of the expence of a king; and it would entirely dissipate the “dreadful evils” of a House of Lords, and the “calamities” of a nobility. There would be a whole croud, a host of evils, and necessities, and calamities, that would be dissipated with the breath of such a parliament: it would be effectively the government of THE PEOPLE; and we did not want the French Revolution to tell us what that is: the new truth, brought to light by this great event, is, that personal representation is the government of the mob. And what is the conclusion? That property possesses the government at present, and ought to keep it; and that when a coarse and fierce Jacobin tells us, that THE PEOPLE WILL HAVE what Jacobins petition for,—it is in the same strain as telling us, that the people will soon be INVINCIBLE: all these expressions, so daring, offensive, and hostile, and which touch the verge of treason, should convince reasonable men, more than a thousand arguments, that our danger is not over; that French principles yet fascinate; that ruin and reform are synonymous; and that, with Jacobins, war is the true means of safety.

A P P E N D I X.

WHATEVER representation took place, in *antient* times, was of property, never of persons. “The supreme power in the mycel-gemotes, or folkmote* (p. 171.), was ever lodged in the collective body of the free PROPRIETORS OF LAND,” says Dr. Squire, afterwards Bishop of St. David’s, in his *Inquiry into the English Constitution*. “The wittenagemote, composed of the King’s companions, or Thanes, the governors of counties, bishops, and dignified clergymen of large property.” *Ib.* “Without five hides of land, a ceorl could not be put upon the rank of a King’s Thane.” *Ib.* “A hide of land from 500 to 600 acres.” *Hume*, vol. i. p. 203.

NOTHING can be more false, than the notion of some writers, that the tyranny found in England, after the conquest was introduced by the Normans; for it appears, by Doomsday Book, that England was full of villains and bondmen in

* Henry makes the folkmote the county court. Vol. iii. p. 349.

the time of Edward the Confessor. *General Pref. to Brady's 2d. Vol.*

THE last, and perhaps the best, of our historians (Henry), unites with all other unprejudiced men,—“ As soon as any of the ceorls acquired *five hides of land, with a church, a bell-house, and manor place*, they were declared thanes or nobles, and members of the wittenagemote. This qualification was gradually raised, till, in the reign of Edward the Confessor, it was fixed at forty hides.” (Vol. iii. p. 371. *Wilkins' Leges Saxon*,¹ p. 70, 71. *Historia Eliensis*, cap. 40.) Though great efforts have been made to prove, that the ceorls, or small proprietors of land, were represented in the wittenagemote, by their tithing-men, or borsholders; and the inhabitants of trading towns, by their aldermen, or portreeves; it must be confessed, that of this there is not sufficient historic evidence remaining (*Tyrrel Introd.* p. 95. *Squire*, 244). It is, however, highly probable, that many ceorls and burgesses, who dwelt in or near the place where a wittenagemote was held, attended it as interested spectators, and intimated their satisfaction, with its resolves, by shouts of applause. On some great occasions, when there was an uncommon concourse of such spectators, their presence and approbation is recorded in such terms as these “ *omnique populo audiente et vidente*

(and all the people hearing and looking on) *aliorumque fidelium infinita multitudo qui omnes laudaverunt* (and a prodigious crowd of other people who all applauded) they frequently assembling in the open air, in some extensive plain." (*Spelman Concil*, p. 625. 350. *Henry.*) The circumstance of the great body of mechanics, artizans, and labourers being slaves, if there were no other point to refer to, ought alone to decide the question: how should *the people* be represented when *the people* were slaves? That they were so, see *Henry*, vol. iii. 8vo. p. 320. 323.

DR. BRADY hath taken the pains to collect all the accounts given in old chronicles of the great councils or parliaments of this nation, in the Saxon times, and hath shewn very clearly, that the common people, or inhabitants of burghs, never had deputies in any of them, nor were they in a proper condition of freedom to be capable of choosing representatives to sit in such an assembly. Sir Henry Spelman, after carefully examining into the constitution of an hundred parliaments, held from the Norman conquest to the 49th of Henry III. pronounces, that the boroughs never were represented in any. Sir W. Dugdale, and all other judicious and unprejudiced writers, versed in the diction of the times, and in the antiquities of their country, agree with him in this opinion. *Carte*, vol. ii. p. 257.

IF in the long period of two hundred years, which elapsed between the conquest and the latter end of Henry III. and which abounded in factions, revolutions, and convulsions of all kinds, the House of Commons never performed one single legislative act, so considerable as to be once mentioned by any of the numerous historians of that age, they must have been totally insignificant: and, in that case, what reason can be assigned for their ever being assembled? Can it be supposed that men of so little weight or importance possessed a negative voice against the King and the barons? Every page of the subsequent histories, discovers their existence; though these histories are not writ with greater accuracy than the preceding ones, and indeed scarcely equal them in that particular. The Magna Charta of King John provides, that no scutage or aid shall be imposed, either on the land or towns, but by the consent of the great council; and for more security, it enumerates the persons entitled to a seat in that council, the prelates, and immediate tenants of the Crown, without any mention of the Commons: an authority so full, certain, and explicit, that nothing but the zeal of party could ever have procured credit to any contrary hypothesis. *Hume*, vol. ii. p. 119. In opposition to such authorities, Lord Littleton is so zealous as to rely on a petition from St. Alban's, which implies a preceding right;

right; yet he himself confesses, that it contains two gross falsehoods. A pretty House of Commons, whose existence is to be proved by the implication of a few words in a lying petition: and this in the teeth of Magna Charta !!

THE first summons of burgesses to parliament (except in the 49th of Henry III.) was in the 23d of Edward I. “ To clear this point beyond all doubt or cavil, we may look back to the 18th of this King and see what the stile of parliament was. In that year there is a bundle of writs directed to the sheriffs, to chuse two or three knights, but no citizens or burgesses. This parliament gave the King a 15th of all their moveables. The title of the grant is, *a 15th granted by the archbishops, bishops, abbots, priors, earls, barons, and all others of the kingdom, OMNES ALIOS DE REGNO.* This is the very same stile that was used in the reigns of King John and Henry III. before the commons or community of counties were represented by knights chosen by them. *Omnes alios de regno* were therefore the military tenants *in capite* of the ordinary rank.”—*Brady Hist. Treatise of Boroughs*, p. 26. and in other passages repeated similar instances. It was hardly possible to produce more decisive proof, that these expressions, which seemed, according to the ideas of this age, to include the people, to have really included

cluded what then was esteemed the nation, viz., the nobility—the great land proprietors;—as to what we now mean by *the people*, they were not in contemplation.

Dr. Brady further proves, by records, that on summoning the burgesses to parliament, an alteration took place, not only in the writ of summons, to enable them to act separately from the knights, but another also in the writ of commission, appointing taxors and collectors, by the addition of *Et cives, et burgenses, et alii probi homines de dominicis nostris civitatibus et burgis, &c.*; by which it is clearly proved, that these men were different from those before included by *alii de regno* in former writs. And the conclusions drawn by this great antiquary, who has examined the records with an unrivalled industry, are not founded on a few scattered instances, but on an immense series of examples, sufficient to force the assent of all but such as are voluntarily hoodwinked.

RUFFHEAD says, that Brady wrote *with an illiberal view, but with great learning and acuteness* *. What his views were is nothing to the purpose, as he founds his opinion every where on the authority of unquestioned records, which he quotes, and none have detected him of unfairness:

* Pref. Stat. at Large, vol. i. p. 10.

but

but there is one passage in which Ruffhead himself gives up the question. “ The 25th of Edward I. which confirms Magna Charta, says, that it was made by the *common assent of all the realm*; and the 15th of Edward III. speaks more strongly, that *Magna Charta was made par le Roi, ses piers & la communalte de la terre*, and the judgment of those early times is more to be regarded than the partial construction of modern interpreters.” This is decisive of the question; for it PROVES, by the judgment of those early times, that the expressions, the common assent of all, and the commonalty of the land, meant to describe those who really made Magna Charta; and that great record tells us expressly and minutely who made it, viz. the prelates and immediate tenants of the Crown, without any mention of the Commons, or the insertion of expressions that might, by implication, include them. This shews therefore, with a clearness that leaves nothing to doubt, that the expressions so weakly relied on, *populorum totius regni—populo—gentz de commune, &c. &c.* mean, in reality, what, in those barbarous times, was considered as all the people, the whole commonalty of the realm; that is to say, land possessors holding by military tenure; all beneath were of no more account, in great national assemblies, than the cows, sheep, and hogs of the kingdom. While the despotism of the Stewarts was attacking the liberties of the kingdom, there was

was a merit in seeking for the origin of our liberties in high antiquity, and to give them all the lustre flowing from that or from any other circumstance; but the question is now on another ground: the Jacobin spirit, more accursed than Stewart principles, now threatens our freedom from the opposite quarter; and the friends of that freedom ought to repel the unworthy design with every weapon that every age can furnish.

IN antient times, and at the first institution of representatives for counties, none had any vote in the election of knights, but such as owed suit to the county court, *i. e.* such as held immediately of the Crown; for all that held lands of mesne lords, owed suit and service to their lord's courts. What contributed to the alteration of the constitution in this respect, was a shameful indolence in country gentlemen, who procured privileges, allowing them to appear by proxy; and it was one of Simon de Montfort's ways, of engaging the favour of the gentry, by making such privileges general. The proxies, deputed by the gentlemen, were generally some of their own freeholders, who, by this means, attending at county courts (though not in their own right), came, in process of time, to be put on juries, &c. It doth not appear, however, that these freeholders, under mesne lords, ever had a share in the election

tion of knights of shires, till the tumultuary parliament, in the 1st of Henry IV.; and thence arose the grievous complaints, made by the commons in parliament, of *outrageous and excessive numbers of people pretending a right to attend elections.*

* Henry IV. thinking these inferior freeholders convenient for his purpose, established their right of voting by an act in his 7th year. This act, the first of its kind that was ever made, the rights of electors having ever subsisted on prescription, passed in the same session, wherein, by a like novelty, he took upon him to alter the course of succession and descent of the Crown, as if a new modelling of parliaments was necessary to support his usurpation. *Carte*, vol. ii. p. 699. What then becomes of a modern reformer's conception, that the statute of the 8th of Henry VI. *cut off the rights of nineteen in twenty of the people*; instead of a cutting off, it was an extension in matter of right.

THE origin of knights of the shire is thus shewn by *Carte* (see also vol. ii. p. 250.), to have been aristocratical,—a mere method, by representation, of easing the lesser barons in their appearance in the great council,—those who had a right to choose had a right to sit in person, but craved

* Stat. 8 Hen. VI. c. 7. 7 Hen. IV. c. 15. 6 Hen. VI. c. 4.
10 Hen. VI. c. 2.

the exemption ; it was a series of *abuses*, contrary to the original purity of the constitution, that gave this right of election, first to men not holding by noble tenure, and then to 40s. voters. I have read, with attention, Lord Littleton's most unsatisfactory endeavours to prove the contrary (Life of King Henry II. vol. iii.), which Mr. Hume puts down with his usual ease and perspicuity, Hist. vol. ii. p. 509.

Modern writers, who love system better than truth, have been fond of supposing the expression *free men*, to have had, in antient times, a signification similar to the acceptation at present—but Dr. Brady shews in the clearest manner, from records, the infinite difference, and that *liberi homines* were tenants *in capite*, who had villains under them, of whose estates they had partly the disposal. *Animad. on Jani Ang. facies nova.* p. 221.

The more remotely this business is examined, the more decisively every thing in our government traces back to the Crown, and to an aristocracy created by the Crown *. Where is your original PURITY? In the woods of Germany?—

* May 6, 1793, in the debate on Mr. Grey's motion for a parliamentary reform, Mr. Erskine thus expressed himself; " all the privileges which we now possessed had been won for us by the commons; all our liberties had been wrested by them from the Crown." *Star*, May 7. The honourable member knew our history too well to look for a House of Commons among the Saxons.

—The purity of the constitution, in a period when the Commons, though summoned to parliament, were so insignificant, that their assent, as Ruffhead observes, was not, for a long time, held essential to the enacting of laws: when they were even omitted by the sheriffs at pleasure*: when the King made laws of his own authority †; and at other times, in the writ of summons, expressly named the representatives which the sheriffs were to return ‡: when the Commons were not so much as named—the case of most of the antient statutes §; and long after their establishment, their assent was so far from being indisputably established in practice, that we find it disputed, says Ruffhead, in the most essential points, and even

* 23d Edward I.—No mention is made of knights or burgesses, in the 23d Edward I. m. 8. *dorfō*; nor in 27th Edward I. m. 17. *dorfō*. We find the like omission in several other instances. In one summons of the 23d Edward I. the barons only are mentioned. See likewise the Commons' petition, 13th Edward III. *Cotton's Abridg.* n. 23. Also 5th Richard II. Stat. 2. c. 4.

† 10th Edward II. Stat. of Gavelot.—*It is provided by our Lord the King and his justices, &c. without any mention of Lords or Commons. That laws, in these early times, were made by the sole authority of the King, without the concurrence of any other legislative branch, is further evident from the Mirroir des Justices; the author of which complains, "that ordinances are only made by the King and his clerks; and by aliens and others, who dare not contradict the King."* Ruffhead Pref. Stat.

‡ See Cl. 45. Ed. III. m. 2. *Dorfō*.

§ Ruffhead.

over-ruled *. The instances which that writer produces, are too numerous to quote here. There is no inquiry into their *right*; but I demand what was the *purity* of the constitution in those periods, that could admit the possibility of such irregularities? Yet these are the periods to which our factious reformers send us back to search for the principles, the spirit, and the original purity which is wanted in the reign of George III.!!!

IN all disputes on the origin of a branch of the legislature in any country, where there is a question of its existence, its being a question at all is *prima facie*, a strong argument against such ex-

* 5th Edward III.—An imposition laid without the consent of the Commons; and the same King, in his last year, claimed the right of doing so in cases of great necessity. Rot. Parl. 5th Edward III. nu. 25. In the first year of Richard II. money was raised without assent of Parliament. Madox. As a proof that acts were often passed without the concurrence or assent of the Commons, we find, in 6th of Richard II. an act made in the last parliament revoked; and the cause assigned is, because the said statute was never assented to, nor granted by the Commons. It is observable, nevertheless, that the act of the 6th Richard II. was never printed, as Lord Coke assures us; and the statute of the 5th, though passed without the assent of the Commons, was, as it is said, put in execution, and continued in force, till it was repealed by 1st Edward VI. c. 12. and 1st Elizabeth, c. 1. See Rot. Parl. 6th Richard II. nu. 52. And Cotton Abridg. p. 354. Where there are several instances of acts passed without the assent of the Commons. See also the extraordinary difference of acts, as they passed the Commons, and as they became laws on the Statute rolls.

istence, and therefore the *onus probandi*, ought to be on those who presume it. It would be an utter absurdity to make any question of the existence of an aristocratical wittenagemote, before the Conquest, or of a House of Barons after it; their existence is palpable in every page of the historians; and after the House of Commons was really instituted, the existence of that also was manifest in legislative acts. But to pretend to a legislature *incog.* is a farce; if it effectively exists, it must shew itself in a thousand different ways, and not want to be dragged from the lurking hole of dark expressions in old musty charters, some *translated*, the originals lost, and others proved to be forgeries. The attempt thus to prove the existence of a legislature is alone, without looking further, a strong suspicion, that it had no existence. It is worthy only of Lord Littleton, who translates the expression, *omnes de regno*, in an age of feudal barbarism, by *the whole commonalty of the realm*, he might as well have included the swine as the men who drove them, for they were in that age of as much account: it is like his making the expressions *principes, satrapæ, optimates, magnates, proceres*, mean the people*: by thus torturing words from

* "The northern nations, who were perpetually in arms, put a high esteem upon military valour; and, to distinguish the military from villains, called those noblemen, or knights, who nobly defended,

from that meaning, which holds of the character and manners of an age, such writers deduce—what? Not some trifling point, which might easily, from its nature, have been clear or confused — but the existence of a House of Commons!!! And our reformers are very glad to join them, in order to shew *the original purity of the constitution*, flourishing amidst the rapine, blood, and death that followed the footsteps of tartar barons; amidst the barbarity of feudal monarchs, and enslaved villains; scenes of misery, to which the people of England are now bid, by the vile tongue of Jacobin faction, to look back to with eyes of envy and regret!

IN a pamphlet, called the *People's Barrier*, it is said that the Commons were represented in the parliaments of the Saxons, and this is taken from the works of the Rev. Samuel Johnson: his *Essay concerning Parliaments at a certainty* now lies before me, and there you find much of Saxon parliaments, but without one word of proof that they

defended, &c."—“This being the true baronage of England, it is no wonder that they were called *nobiles*; the MOST EMINENT among them *magnates, principes, proceres*; and so numerous, that they were esteemed *multitudo infinita*.” It is sufficiently plain, that this author considered all these expressions as descriptive, not only of nobility, but also of the *most eminent* of the nobility: and will any reformer except against the authority?—that of Algernon Sidney! *Works*, p. 429.

were so composed : those parliaments were merely aristocratical, and the expressions, in the *mirror of justice*, much of which was written in Edward the Second's time (and therefore no Saxon authority), convey no determinate idea : *Le Roy assembler les comittes* ; again, *le commun assent de Roy & de ses countes*—now for the explanation—*comittes* and *countes*, mean counties, counties mean free-men, free-men mean the mob—*ergo*, all the world were represented under the Saxons ; very well deduced Mr. Samuel Johnson : this is all he offers for Saxon times—the next word he jumps to Edward the First : but he would afterwards make out, that a Saxon *folkmote* was a parliament, yet he expressly says, *I do not readily know what that folkmote is* (p. 287). He admits, however, that Sir Henry Spelman's is “the learnedest glossary that ever was writ ;” and that learned antiquary is directly against him, and proves that a folkmote was not a wittenagemote ; and how the coronation oath of Richard the Second is *direct proof*, will puzzle a plain man to discover. Let the reader consult Mr. Hume's first appendix, and various passages in Dr. Henry, and the authorities cited, he will there see the utter folly and absurdity of looking for the Commons in the wittenagemote, or for *the people*, not freeholders, in the county and hundred courts.

The question, whether parliaments were annual, has been as much mistaken: Blackstone (a favourite authority with many reformers), says, “not that the King is, or ever was obliged, by these ancient statutes, to call a *new* parliament every year, but only to permit a parliament to sit annually.” The above-quoted Johnson, has a chapter to shew, that they were held *fresh and fresh*: but all he says amounts to no more than an inquiry into who should bear their expences, if they sat longer than forty days? For he says expressly, that *the true reason of abrupt dissolution was, that their sitting, after the given time, must be at the King's charge*; which, in one word, explains the reason of so many new parliaments, and completely overturns the whole argument of the chapter.

When the House of Commons, in Charles the First's reign, gave, in the *Petition of Right*, what might be called a history of their own importance in the legislature, and began with a statute of Edward the First, to shew that the consent of knights and burgesses was necessary to the levy of a tax—is it possible to conceive that they would not have gone farther back, had they been able to do it upon unquestioned authority?

But to drop all reference, and to reason on the comparative state of society in the time of the

Anglo Saxons and the present age—an observation very obvious is, that the power of the aristocracy, which admitted such men as Harold, Godwin, Leofric, Siward, Morcar, Edwin, Edric, and Alfric, must have been so great, that whatever institutions could throw a weight into the scale of the people, were a right and necessary counterpoise:—after the Conquest the Crown was omnipotent; the same maxim held; but after the people became predominant, brought their king to the scaffold, and trampled on the peerage—after liberty became firmly fixed, and the Crown was left absolutely at the mercy of the Commons for every shilling of its revenue—is it for such an age to look back to periods so totally different; and to call for rendering such a popular government still more popular, because those laws (supposing their existence) were good 800 years ago!! Every principle, not of politics only, but of common sense, must be given to the winds before such reasoning can be admitted. This spirit of faction says, give us our antient laws, our antient rights—have not the Crown and the nobility an equal right to reply?—granted—take them—but restore to us what we at the same time possessed. Like true tyrants (and no spirit of tyranny matches the republican) they buy their possessions, and then, keeping the purchase, demand back the price. Do you urge, in reply, the ma-

jeſty of the people?—The majesty of the sans culottes? Go to France.

If any one doubts what our reformers really look for, let him reflect on a passage in the *People's Barrier*; the author is contending for universal suffrage in the election of representatives—"By the word representatives, I by no means intend to deny or derogate from the right of *the Commons at large*, for that the original power and authority reside in them, is implied in the very word itself." Here representation is cut up by the roots, in the very language of the tribunes in the National Convention;—the constitution contended for is professed to be mob and anarchy !!

"Had a House of Commons, *freely chosen by all the people* existed, could Charles have been a tyrant, Cromwell a protector, or King William have suspended the *babeas corpus*, &c. &c.?" *People's Barrier.* Answer: Such a House of Commons exists in France, and has caused enormities fit only for republicans. The experiment is tried; and 25 millions of people ruined, the result.

I hold it, says Blackſtone, ſufficient that it is generally agreed, that in the main the conſtitution of Parliament, as it now stands, was marked out so

long ago as the 17th of King John, A. D. 1215, in the great charter, wherein he promises to summon all archbishops, bishops, abbots, earls, and greater barons personally; and all other tenants in chief under the Crown by the sheriff. This is whimsical;—to refer to Magna Charta to prove the constitution then to be in the main as it now stands, while it affords the most positive proof of the direct contrary fact, and even in the very words here quoted. *The tenants in chief under the Crown* were a part of the aristocracy; here is an express exclusion of every elementary atom that could form a *House of Commons*, in the words from which the false deduction is made, that *in the main* the constitution was the same as at present—if so, Venice and the Grisons are under similar governments.

There is another passage in that celebrated lawyer, which, in my humble opinion, deserves a reconsideration.—“ The two houses naturally drawing in two directions of opposite interest, and the prerogative in another still different from them both, they mutually keep each other from exceeding their proper limits—like three distinct powers, in mechanics, they jointly impel the machine of government, in a direction different from what either, acting by themselves, would have done; but at the same time in a direction partaking of each and formed out of all; a direction which constitutes

constitutes the true line of the liberty and happiness of the community." I do not conceive that this is either the theory or the practice of our constitution.—Three distinct powers in mechanics, acting equally in contrary directions, would arrest all motion and the machine would stand still, which is not the case. The theory seems to be one preponderating power, absolutely overcoming the two opposite ones, and having them both at its mercy; these in constant danger unite for self defence: this is the House of Commons on paper, in theory: but in practice the Crown by *influence*, in union with the *influence* of the Lords, and with that of honest men, in the assembly itself, gently persuades and beseeches, as well as it can, the Commons to use this enormous power with moderation *. It has sometimes happened that this could not be done; at such moments the leaders of that House have contented themselves with seizing the administration of the executive power, without attacking the power itself; but suppose

* The author of *The Patriot* has written very ably on influence; but I do not view it altogether in the same light as that well informed writer, who considers it as a proper constituent part of a system of freedom: on the contrary, to me it seems to be, in the British constitution, a corrective in practice of a bad theory; and I should be apt to consider its necessity as a defect in the plan of our government, thus effectively supplied. It would, however, probably be found, in this instance, as in so many others, that a greater degree of perfection than what we now enjoy would be, if not ideal, at least attended with evils not in contemplation at present.

such

such an alteration was made in elections, in representation, in the duration of parliaments, as gave *the people* such a power over those leaders as to force an attack on the executive itself, instead of its administration—what would be the consequence? It is sufficiently clear, to the most careless observer, that the constitution would be levelled in the dust—the House of Commons, acting by the impulse of the lowest of the people, would be irresistible—the Crown and the Lords would sink together. With a good and a popular King, such things are unlikely, but what is a constitution good for that depends on the perpetual existence of what is not to be looked for in the continued duration of many centuries? Suppose a weak and unpopular King. Do not these considerations give us some reason for questioning the justice of the learned judges' description? Do they not rather lead us to believe that the theory of our constitution is really bad; that the practice is the best part of it, and that to which we are really indebted for whatever we enjoy? There are men who tell us, that a virtuous House of Commons, though at the command of the people would act virtuously;—this resolves itself into a dependence on the virtue of a mob—the men who wish to place us in this dependence, must either be fools, who see not the danger, or rogues that know it well, and therefore are earnest to involve us: but at all events these ideas,

ideas, of I know not what mechanical contradictions, and counter constitutional powers, are apparently erroneous, and therefore ought to be well considered before they are acquiesced in.

DR. TUCKER gives a reason of very great weight against any representation on grounds of equality of any kind. In such a representation, London would have an 100 members, at least, and always on the spot. *Treatise on Civil Government*, p. 258. What a novice in politics must he be, who does not see the infinite evils that would result—and this under a general system, that gave more importance to mobs than they have at present! What infatuation! One hundred London members backed by a London mob: a very amusing idea.

THE able and eloquent Count de Lally Tendal, in his second letter to Mr. Burke, contends, that it was *necessary* to give the double representation to the *tiers*. Let any person read his *State of the kingdom*, p. 15, and then ask, if more powerful—more decisive reasons could possibly be brought *against* that measure? For if the mob were dragging parliaments in the kennel, for demanding antient forms, what had a politician reason to expect from making that mob omnipotent!! Charles V. Gustavus, and the Barons of England

England (p. 17.), knew how to keep the popular party within bounds—but did Louis XVI.? Was his personal character, which had relaxed every rein of government, to be overlooked in such a question? With the government in such hands, what security against the three houses coming together; seeing there had been precedents even for that?

THE point of religion, *politically* considered, is a great and arduous question, which demands talents, fully to examine and arrange, greater perhaps than any other branch of legislation. The ablest men of the age, seem rather to split on this rock than to escape it. When I read in a tract, a complaint of the author, that, *because he objects to particular religious tenets, he has been represented as an enemy of order and of government*; and in the same tract meet with the assertion, that, *the revolution of the 10th of August was a happy and necessary completion of that of the 14th of July*, I see an instance which affords a proof of this. The latter sentiment makes one's blood run cold, for it implies more than it professes. Freezing with its effect, I turned hastily to the end of the work, to see if it was not explained (as the publication took place after the death of the King) in a chapter of additions and corrections; but no such matter. The question comes surely with force; is such a

man represented as an enemy of government, on account of his *religious tenets*, or on account of his *political opinions* ?

When such sentiments are abroad, and even gloried in, and found most wonderfully connected, one knows not how, with religious tenets, infinitely difficult becomes the business, I will not say of toleration, but of the whole system of legislation, so far as it connects with religion. Would you have a unitarian take a seat on the bench of bishops? Religious reasons have not yet been given why he should not. But would you have a man there who publicly declares, that the revolution of the 10th of August was a HAPPY ONE? No; most assuredly. Hence then, in the *repeal* of tests and subscriptions, are they to be considered as levelled against heterodox doctrines of religion; or, as political securities, that the power and emoluments of the church shall be lodged with men whose opinions do not tend to the utter destruction of our admirable constitution IN STATE? And further, if there are any particular sects of religion, whose professors are generally tinctured with republicanism and Jacobinism, will any man of common sense suppose the non-repeal of tests and restrictions persisted in merely on religious motives?

I shall,

I shall, from this fearful epoch of the French revolution, have many doubts in political maxims, which have been very generally subscribed to for these last twenty years; and, among others, on the question of toleration, *for those countries in which it has not been either the law or policy of the state.* The tolerating spirit of the old government of France was one of the chief engines of its destruction; and should the noblest system of government the world ever saw—that of Britain—receive a mortal wound—that wound will have its origin in the same cause. Were I a Spanish minister, I might advise my master to regulate the inquisition; but I would not advise him to abolish it—*thanks to Jacobinism.*

T H E E N D.

To ARTHUR YOUNG, Esq. Bradfield Hall, near Bury.

Crown and Anchor, March 18, 1793.

S I R,

I AM desired by the Committee to communicate to you the inclosed Resolutions, which they came to last night. It is their wish, not only to pay the tribute they think due to so excellent a performance, but to call the attention of the public to a work which cannot fail of making a great impression on all who read it.

I join most heartily in the sentiments of the Committee; and I hope the step they have taken will be approved by you.

I have the honour to be,

S I R,

Your most obedient, and very humble servant,

JOHN REEVES. Chairman.

Crown and Anchor, March 15, 1793.

At a Meeting of the General Committee, this Day,

RESOLVED,

THAT the thanks of this Committee be given to ARTHUR YOUNG, Esq. for his excellent Pamphlet, intituled, "*The Example of France a Warning to Britain* :" in which he has successfully opposed the testimony of facts and experience to the hazardous speculations of visionary theorists in matters of government.

RESOLVED,

That the said resolution be inserted in the Newspapers.

To ARTHUR YOUNG, Esq.

Melford, April 7, 1793.

SIR,

I AM desired by the Committee of the Association of Loyal Inhabitants of the Hundred of Babergh, to transmit to you the following Resolution:

"That the best and most cordial thanks of the Committee be given to ARTHUR YOUNG, Esq. for his excellent Pamphlet, so particularly useful at this crisis, intituled, "*The Example of France a Warning to Britain*;" and that the Secretary be requested to communicate them, by a letter addressed to him at Bradfield-Hall."

I feel the greatest satisfaction in sending you the above resolution, because it affords me an opportunity of informing you, that it passed not merely with unanimity, but with the strongest expressions of approbation and applause. Permit me to add my acknowledgments for the pleasure and instruction I have received from a publication, which, while it gives you a just claim to the esteem, respect, and gratitude of every friend to the constitution, will, as its next best reward, subject you to the censure and calumny of all the enemies to order and good government.

I am, very respectfully,

Sir, your most humble servant,

CHARLES EDWARD STEWART.

To ARTHUR YOUNG, Esq.

Halesworth, Suffolk, June 10, 1793.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour, as Secretary to the Loyal Association of the Hundred of BLYTHING, to transmit you a copy of a vote of thanks, which passed at the last meeting of our Committee, for your late publication,--- “*The Example of France a Warning to Britain.*” And I cannot help taking the liberty of adding my own, as an individual, for the obligation you have conferred upon the Public, by placing the Question in so clear a point of view. I am, Sir,

With the greatest respect,

Your most obedient humble servant,

P. JERMYN.

BLYTHING LOYAL ASSOCIATION.

At a Meeting of the Committee of this Association, held by adjournment at the Three Tuns, in YOXFORD, on Wednesday, the 22d day of May, 1793,

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,

THAT the thanks of this Committee be given to ARTHUR YOUNG, Esq. for his late judicious publication, intituled, “*The Example of France a Warning to Britain;*” and that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to him by the Secretary.

By the Committee,

P. JERMYN, Secretary.

To ARTHUR YOUNG, Esq.

S I R,

Red House, Suffolk, June 7, 1793.

I AM sorry I have not been sooner able to transmit to you the Thanks of the BOSMERE and CLAYDON, and STOW Association, for your very excellent work, "*The Example of France a Warning to Britain*," as voted on Tuesday last. Permit me to assure you, that no one more heartily joins in the vote of approbation than,

Your obedient humble servant,

MILESON EDGAR.

HUNDREDS OF BOSMERE AND CLAYDON,
AND STOW ASSOCIATION.

At a Meeting of the Committee of this Association, held by adjournment at the King's Head Inn, in NEEDHAM-MARKET, this 4th day of June, 1793,

MILESON EDGAR, Esq. in the Chair.

RESOLVED,

THAT the thanks of this Society be transmitted by the Chairman to ARTHUR YOUNG, Esq. for his excellent work, intituled, "*The Example of France a Warning to Britain*."

By order of the Committee,

JOHN MARRIOTT, Secretary.

To ARTHUR YOUNG, Esq.

Hoxne Hall, Suffolk, April 16, 1793.

SIR,

AS Chairman of the Loyal Association of the hundreds of Hoxne and Hartsmere, I have the honour to transmit to you the warmest thanks of the Committee, which met last Thursday, at Eye, for your incomparable pamphlet, intituled, "The Example of France a Warning to Britain." And I beg leave to add my own in particular, for the singular satisfaction I have experienced from the perusal of that publication.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

THO. MAYNARD.



R

To ARTHUR YOUNG, Esq.

S I R,

Hadleigh, May 8, 1793.

I AM desired by the Committee of the Association for the Hundred of Cosford, and vicinity of Hadleigh, to transmit to you the following Resolution, which was this day passed unanimously:

"RESOLVED,

THAT the sincere and earnest thanks of this Committee be given to ARTHUR YOUNG, Esq. for his admirable publication, intituled, "The Example of France a Warning to Britain:"---a work which should be treasured in the mind of every Englishman, who wishes not to see the foundations of order and good government overturned, and the comely edifice of our envied constitution, erected on those foundations, tumbled into ruins."

Allow me to add the satisfaction I have individually received from the perusal of the foregoing pamphlet, which so ably supports its point, by the most unanswerable of all testimony, facts and experience. An abstract of it cannot fail of being generally useful.

I am, with much esteem,

Sir, your very faithful humble servant,

G. WATSON.

WOODBRIDGE DIVISION ASSOCIATION.

*At a Meeting of the Committee of the above Association, held
at the Shire-Hall, this 4th day of June, 1793,*

P. B. BROKE, Esq. Chairman,

IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED,

THAT the thanks of this Association be given to ARTHUR YOUNG, Esq. for his most excellent pamphlet, intituled, "*The Example of France a Warning to Britain;*" wherein the miseries and distress brought upon that nation, the cruelties and oppressions practised upon individuals by mistaken philosophy, and the deceitful doctrines of *Liberty* and *Equality*, are, by facts that chill humanity with horror, incontestibly proved and confirmed.

J. SYER, M. D. Secretary.

E R R A T A.

- Page 187. last line—*for* doubling its paper value, *read* doubting
its par value.
- 189. line 13.—*dele* the inverted commas, and add them, line
16, after *longer.*"

In the Press, and speedily will be published,

(Price 6d. or 2l. 2s. per Hundred,)

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Example of France a Warning to Britain.

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Poor.

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of France, by the AUTHOR of this Pamphlet.

